Foreign
Broadcast
Information
Service
50
ANNIVERSARY
1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-042
Monday
4 March 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Soviet Leaders' Gulf Message

LD0103234691 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] WAFA [PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY] reported yesterday that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat received an urgent message from the Soviet leadership dealing with the latest developments in the Gulf situation and other aspects of the Soviet peaceful efforts to make the cease-fire hold, as well as the awaited efforts to find a comprehensive and a just solution to the Palestinian problem in accordance with the resolutions of international legality.

'Arafat Adviser Reacts to Bush's 1 Mar Comments

LD0203215891 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO President Yasir 'Arafat, by correspondent Djahida Mihoubi; place and date not given; first paragraph announcer-read introduction—recorded]

[Text] What does the PLO think, as the settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian problem was mentioned at Bush's news conference yesterday? An adviser of Yasir 'Arafat, Bassam Abu Sharif, gives his first reaction to Djahida Mihoubi, who contacted him by phone:

[Abu-Sharif] As far as we are concerned, the problem is very clear. If President Bush is serious, the problem will be easily settled. He can call Shamir to ask him to withdraw from the occupied territories. A U.S. President did it before: it was President Eisenhower, when he called the Israeli official to ask him to withdraw from Gaza in 1956. We don't have trust except when we see the Israelis withdrawing from the occupied arab territories. Anyway, I think the West, in general, is currently in a very delicate position. On the one hand, they used cruel force and destruction under the banner of the United Nations for implementing the UN Security Council resolutions, that is, the resolutions concerning Kuwait. On the other hand, we don't see the West having similar enthusiasm concerning Resolution 242, which was adopted 23 years ago. As Arabs and as Palestinians, we think that this is a challenge for the West.

[Mihoubi] The United States, as it seems, wants to put itself ahead of everybody else by reserving themselves an important role in the settlement of the Palestinian issue. Will this be carried out within international legality, as everybody now talks about international legality? Or within the framework of the U.S. new order?

[Abu-Sharif] I think the principles declared by President Bush were very clear in the Gulf crisis. He said that international law should be above all countries. Occupation should not survive. So, we think that international legality should be the general principle to settle the problems of the Middle East. I think that the heroic resistance of the Iraqi people will lead to a lot of results, a lot of repercussions in the region. If the United Nations Security Council does not take measures quickly to settle the problems, to implement or strengthen Resolution 242, the Palestinians, no doubt will continue the resistance. We are sure, we are confident that we will end the Israeli occupation.

[Mihoubi] Bassam, there is talk about a diplomatic redeployment of the PLO for a settlement of the Palestinian issue. Can we know the process of this diplomatic activity?

[Abu-Sharif] We are in contact with fraternal Arab countries and we are in contact with Europe. We hope that the problem will be settled, otherwise—I say very clearly—we will continue the resistance. You can be sure we will push the Israelis out.

[Mihoubi] These latest diplomatic attempts [word indistinct] a relation with the latest U.S. decision to send James Baker to the Middle East countries?

[Abu-Sharif] President Bush has practically cut off contacts with the PLO, so we do not have direct contacts with the United States. I think Baker will meet some Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories. Of course, we hope that Europe—Europe in particular, which was directly involved in the Gulf conflict and in the Middle East conflict—will deploy serious efforts to settle the problem quickly. As far as the PLO is concerned, we will continue the contacts on the basis of the initiative launched by President 'Arafat in December 1988. We are always ready to settle the problem politically. We are always ready to negotiate the solution. It is not the PLO which blocked the political solution and the peace process; it was Israel. It is the moral and political responsibility of the United Nations Security Council, the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the United States in particular, to convince Shamir to withdraw quickly from the occupied territories.

[Mihoubi] Yes. Do you think that the USSR will participate in these new diplomatic attempts?

[Abu-Sharif] I think the USSR will participate. We have clearly seen [word indistinct] the role of the USSR in the Gulf crisis, however. So, our reference in this case is the United Nations Security Council.

Envoy Views Palestinians' Conditions in Kuwait

JN0303104091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Mar 91 p 3

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—Fatah, the main stream faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Saturday moved to allay fears about the fate of the Palestinian minority in Kuwait in the wake of the Iraqi withdrawal from the emirate and the reestablishment of the al-Sabah family's rule there.

Salim al-Za'nun (Abu-Adib), who is a member of Fatah's Central Committee and its representative in Kuwait and the Gulf region, told a press conference here Saturday that Emir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah had issued orders through Kuwait Radio warning against any harmful action against the Palestinians and saying that the Palestinians will remain in Kuwait enjoying respect and welcome from the people and government of Kuwait.

The PLO has taken precautionary measures to ensure that the Palestinans would not be exposed to any harm during or after the Gulf crisis by stressing that the PLO and the Palestinian people should remain neutral in any inter-Arab differences, al-Za'nun noted.

None of the Palestinians living in Kuwait took part in any demonstrations in support of Iraq so that they would not be part of any struggle which was not related to Palestine, said al-Za'nun.

Indeed, the Palestinians were not in a position to take sides since some of them had been living and working in Kuwait for the past 30 years and many of them carried Kuwaiti nationality while others were married to Kuwaitis, al-Za'nun added.

At the start of the Iraqi takeover, the PLO had told the leadership: "Let us serve as a bridge of understanding and amity between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people."

However, al-Za'nun noted, at least 50 Palestinians were killed and 100 others injured in the hostilities which took place after the Aug. 2 takeover.

Al-Za'nun estimated the Palestinian losses in Kuwait at $13 billion.

Many Palestinians had fled Kuwait leaving behind their property and bank deposits, but, according to al-Za'nun, nearly 170,000 Palestinians remained in Kuwait.

Al-Za'nun expressed the PLO's deep appreciation to Jordan for its continued assistance to the Palestinians. At least 200,000 Palestinians have returned to Jordan from the Gulf and the Jordanian government did everything in its power to provide them with assistance of any sort, al-Za'nun added.

Asked about the Arab oil state's assistance to the PLO, al-Za'nun said that over the past 26 years, the PLO received a total of $2 billion but the aid was halted with the Iraqi Aug. 2 Takeover of Kuwait.

Al-Za'nun quoted the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as promising further aid in implementation of their earlier pledges made to the Palestine National Fund last year.

Al-Za'nun announced that the PLO leadership and the Palestine National Council would soon convene to discuss the post-Gulf war situation.

PLO Calls For Protecting Palestinians in Kuwait

LD0303143791 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] The Palestinian leadership held a meeting in Tunis yesterday evening at which it discussed a number of issues, including the developments of the uprising inside the occupied territories and the situation of the Palestinian community in Kuwait.

A statement from an official PLO spokesman said that the Palestinian leadership has looked into the conditions of the Palestinians in Kuwait, in the light of international media reports according to which this community was subjected to harrassments following the liberation of Kuwait. The spokesman added in his statement, which was reported by the Palestinian agency WAFA today, that the liberation organization has called for the adoption of immediate measures in order to protect the Palestinian community in Kuwait. He also pointed out that the liberation organization has addressed an official memorandum to a number of Arab and international official parties stressing the necessity to provide protection to the Palestinians in the region.

The Palestinian spokesman also said that the Palestinian leadership will follow up this situation in all fields, out of its concern to safeguard the fraternal relations between the Palestinians and their brothers in Kuwait as well as in the other Gulf Cooperation Council states.

Demands Halt to 'Wave of Attacks'

NC0303113591 Paris AFP in English 1117 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Tunis, March 3 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sunday called for "urgent" measures to halt what it said had been a wave of attacks and arrests suffered by members of the 170,000 Palestinian community in Kuwait.

"The PLO considers that the government in Kuwait and all the Arab and international forces in Kuwait City bear full responsibility for the protection of the Palestinians there," a PLO spokesman.

Quoted by the Palestinian news agency WAFA, he said PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and other leaders discussed reports of "certain acts of violence, violation and arrests, carried out by armed groups against several Palestinians" in Kuwait.

WAFA reported Saturday that the PLO had made approaches at "Arab and international levels" for protecting the Palestinian community. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Reactions to Saddam Political Asylum Report

News Called 'Fabrication'

LD0103223391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Concerning the news that the Iraqi president has asked for political asylum in Algeria, the Algerian Foreign Ministry's official spokesman this evening denied the news reported in an article by the Algiers correspondent of Paris LE MONDE which said that Algeria has given its approval to the Iraqi president's request for political asylum.

In a statement to APS, the spokesman said: This news is mere fabrication by LE MONDE journalists.

It is noteworthy that there are numerous news items based on the LE MONDE article which talked today about the Iraqi president's abdication, replacement, and exile.

Reporter's Accreditation Withdrawn

NC0203222391 Paris AFP in English 2214 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Algiers, March 2 (AFP)—The Algerian Foreign Ministry has withdrawn the accreditation of the correspondent for the French daily LE MONDE, Georges Marion, an official source said Saturday.

He said the move means the correspondent would have to leave Algeria.

Mr. Marion, a veteran expert on Middle East affairs, had written an article in Saturday's edition of the paper saying that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn might step down and find refuge in Algeria.

The report was denied by a Foreign Ministry spokesman here, who called it "a strictly journalistic invention".

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Gulf

LD0203120591 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Algiers, 2 Mar (APS)—The spokesman of the Algerian Foreign Ministry made the following statement after the acceptance by Iraq to abide by the UN decisions: "After withdrawing from Kuwait, Iraq has informed the UN Security Council on its decision to abide by UN resolutions. Since then, a suspension of hostilities is observed. Thus, the Security Council must decree an immediate cease-fire and order the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Iraqi territory. The Security Council must also mandate the secretary-general so as to rapidly set up appropriate mechanisms in the field of operations of peace maintaining, for the consolidation of the cease-fire, the withdrawal of the foreign forces from the Iraqi territory, and the exchange of prisonners.

"Algeria considers that since the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait has ended, some measures taken against Iraq by the Security Council no longer deserve to exist. The lifting of these measures and the commitment of the Security Council to guarantee the respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and Kuwait are necessary to favour the appeasement and setting up of a propicious atmosphere for the reconstruction of Iraq and Kuwait.

"Algeria considers that taking charge of concerns of security for the future falls only on the countries of the area. It recalls the members of the Security Council and the international security as a whole, their commitment to work for the urgent and definite settlement of all the Middle East problems, particularly the Palestinian question. The promotion of a lasting and authentic stability also requires the elimination of all the nuclear weapons and other mass destructive weapons, everywhere in the area.

"Algeria, acting in the frame of the Arab Maghreb Union invites for the rigorous and without complacence assessment of the drama which has been imposed on the Arab nation and is ready to join those who want to draw the true lessons of this drama, to recover the reasons to think in their future, a future of solidarity and in the perenity [word as received] of their civilizational values."

Medical Mission Departs for Baghdad 2 Mar

LD0203125491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] An important Algerian medical mission left Algeria this morning on its way to Baghdad via Amman. The mission consists of 98 doctors, including surgeons and epidemiologists. The mission was formed in coordination with the Algerian medical societies, Ministry of Health and Red Crescent.

Health Minister Hamid Sidi Said, who saw them off at the airport, stated on this occasion that the mission, which is considered the most important Algerian medical mission to go to Baghdad, consists of specialists and personnel from the medical profession who volunteered to carry out a noble duty for the heroic Iraqi people who for several weeks faced with great will and faith the largest military coalition in history.

Islamic Call League Issues Statement on Gulf War

LD0203023891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] What is the view of prominent circles in Algeria regarding the Arab map following the end of the war in the Middle East? We find the answer to this in the statement issued today by the Islamic Call League. Under the headline Call For Patience and Mobilization, it presents clarifications drawn from the experience of the war.

The league hails the steadfastness of the Iraqi people and its Army, as well as its challenge to all the forces of injustice rallying for the destruction of Iraq, quoting the holy verse: So lose not heart, nor fall into despair; for ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith.

The league says that the war, which was waged by the forces of arrogance against Iraq, made the mask of hypocrisy and lackeyism fall from the faces of unjust regimes that have played with the pan-Arab, liberation, or sacred slogans, so that the masses see them in their horrible reality and thus will issue against them the sentence of God, sending them to the museum of lessons that keep the fate of traitors and arrogant people.

The league records that the Gulf war has made some scholars of kings, among the means with which America has justified its crime against the vanguard of the Islamic nation, the Iraqi people.

Hamrouche Comments on Gulf War, New Order

LD2802205591 Algiers APS in English 1034 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Algiers, 28 Feb (APS)—The Gulf war incites us today to accelerate the reforms initiated by Algeria, rely on own forces and defend our country's interests, stated on Wednesday head of government Mouloud Hamrouche. National radio's guest, the head of government noted that with economic reforms, Algeria is the pioneer of Arab countries and reinforces its independence. The Gulf war, considered Hamrouche, revealed two essential elements: Arab world's fragility and West's actual intentions to control all energetic resources in the world. Algeria was not surprised by these two elements in view of its rich experience of struggle and geographical proximity with Europe. This war, said Hamrouche, came to recall some people that life is a permanent struggle and independence is not a final gain. Nowadays, pointed out Hamrouche, the objective is to not only rely on oil incomes to edify our economy.

While tackling the UMA's (Arab Maghreb Union) edification, the head of government stressed the slow down that governed in the past all actions initiated in this regard, specifying that concrete measures could be quickly contemplated within the scope of the free circulation of properties and persons.

The head of state clearly defined during his address before the second national conference of magistrates, the approach that could be that of all Maghreb officials sincerely, hoping to achieve a rapid union to all fields. Asked about what is abusively called, "serious political crisis", the head of government questions the fact that Algeria does live a serious political crisis. What happens, said Hamrouche, is an economic crisis born some years ago but we actually felt its repercussions from 1987 onwards. The main vocation of economic reforms is to set up techniques and mechanisms of a best possible management of this crisis. We generally believe that this crisis will have its bad impacts at the latest in 1993.

Once dealing with the information sector, Hamrouche specified that the national mediatic field came to prove that 23 February 1989 Constitution recorded unexpected results in this sector when Algerian journalists definitively conquested public opinion that was completely depending on foreign media. [sentence as received] It is true that the press needs more means and organization to be developed and I believe that the current projects could settle some of these problems.

Asked about the new international order pleaded by the West, Hamrouche noted that the debate on this new order was initiated by Algeria since 1973 within the spirit of North-South dialogue and towards a fair repartition of world resources. This concept of a new order was recovered by the United States, and the east block decline facilitated the West's actions. Therefore, it falls within Third World countries' duties to think about a better organization of their survival defense because one believes that the decline of one block could be the prelude of the disintegration of another, concluded the head of government.

Egypt

President Mubarak Addresses Parliament 3 Mar

NC0303112391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0907 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak to a joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council at the People's Assembly Hall in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Brother and sister members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council. I come to you at this decisive historic time between light and darkness, between hope and pain, and between the banners of liberation and victory and the ugliness of war and the debris of ruin, in order to address a pan-Arab appeal from the People's Hall in Egypt to all the fraternal Arab people. This is an appeal for a course of action toward a new future, a future of security, peace, work, and construction.

I come to you in the first instance to deliver my second testimony before history about everything related to the bloody catastrophe that has afflicted our Arab nation. I tell you frankly that I faced the hardest and most severe days of responsibility and the most difficult and hardest burden of suffering in these past few weeks. I faced them with a heart that was heavy with worries and sorrows and with a perplexed mind that asked with astonishment: Have we not warned the ruler of Iraq of all that has taken place? Have we not given him sincere advice and told the truth from the first day of his occupation of the State of Kuwait? Have we not continued our endeavors and efforts with him through all means to explain to him the true picture, the sound stand, and the pertinent opinion all of which confirmed that the international consensus would not forgive this crime and would not allow it to continue?

Have we not ignored all his insults, curses, and abuse? We have never stopped our constant warning of his erroneous calculations and of the unbalance in his assessments, which inevitably led, as we expected and warned about, to ruin, destruction, death, and collapse?

May God fight arrogance and vanity! May God fight the decision of the individual when the individual is deified! Vanity, hypocrites, conspirators, beneficiaries, and clowns gave him the impression that his argument, wisdom, and bravery would split the world. Thus, Kuwait would be an easy morsel and its annexation to Iraq would become a false crown for the leadership of illusions. It was then proved to him for certain and since the early days that his judgment was naive and without intellect. Vanity again drove him to the conclusion that with continued stubbornness, while hiding in his fortified bunker, he could topple governments, remove regimes, and change the map of the world. It was then tangibly proved that his judgment was based on the advice of ignorant and backward people, and of professionals in slogans and chants. Vanity, for the third time, drove him to the conclusion that an international resolution would not be issued to secure a withdrawal by force.

Regarding this, I warned him in a lengthy letter—I repeat, I warned him in a lengthy letter—and told him that the resolution would be issued shortly. His reply, as usual, was more abuse and scorn. Then it was proved to him that he had judged blindly; he could not see or realize the most basic facts of the international community. Vanity made him believe for the fourth time that the friendly and Arab allied forces feared confrontation in a ground battle because they were scared of his mythological, supernatural forces, capable of turning the vast land into a great graveyard and a sea of blood which would be overflowing with the remains of tens of thousands of victims. Then, people would revolt against their rulers and governments, thrones would fall, and presidents would disappear. Thus, the leadership of illusions would be higher than all others and would brag in superiority over all heads.

Thus he theatened to bring on destruction, calamities, and great misfortune. With utter confidence, arrogance, and pomposity he declared that he did not have a millionth of a doubt that he would have a sweeping victory. He then announced that the losses of the military infrastructure inside Iraq were much less than he had estimated by accurate calculations. He added that he was capable of waging victorious war for six years. He ridiculed those who had—also foolishly—said the war was going to last for three years. In addition, there was a flood of rapid, successive statements, announcements, and communiques flowing forth from four broadcasting stations speaking of secret, legendary weapons that were going to shake the world, ingenious military plans that were going to baffle war leaders throughout history, and horrendous exterminations which were going to send the fighters back to their countries in hundreds of thousands of shrouds.

To tell the truth, the man did not leave one head of state who opposed his views but accused him of ignorance, lowliness, vileness, cowardice, atheism, and similar matters—using all types of ignoble epithets and lowly invective to describe a large number of world leaders. All those were going to return to him humiliated on their knees asking for his mercy and forgiveness after he had exterminated their armies and after their regimes and governments had collapsed. Then, after the leaders of the major powers fell, his immortal, historic victory would present him with the world's leadership on a gold plate.

Believe me, brothers and sisters, I am still confused and puzzled. Until now I remain confused and puzzled. How could it be possible—by what reasoning, by what logic, or even in the understanding of a student of military science—for him to imagine that he was able to enter a battle, any battle, even a very limited one, when he could not use a single plane or a single defensive missile after the air war and before the ground battle began? Even the planes which escaped destruction, he smuggled to Iran. Is this the heroic steadfastness of which he used to boast, and which was parroted by some deceiving and deceived tongues? Is it steadfastness to let all military installations, war factories, and operations and command centers in Iraq be attacked and destroyed without the least resistance, and without there being a single plane capable of combat to defend a position?

Moreover, does steadfastness mean using civilian positions as clear military posts, or putting military ammunition in schools, hospitals, civilian shelters, houses of worship, and hotels, to expose them to fierce raids and then shed crocodile tears over the killing of civilians? There is a big difference between steadfastness and suicide. Steadfastness means that I fight while I have control over my weapon with the least losses. This is steadfastness. Suicide is to offer up thousands of men to be inevitably killed. This is the commander's decision. The courage of the commander means that he must be at the head of those who stand fast, and that he must be the one who is most concerned about guarding the safety of his people and army. However, having the commander issue orders to his forces to commit suicide while he is safe in his shelter is the stupid ambition of being a steadfast leader among the shouts of the demonstrators. This is madness. In fact, this is a betrayal of the honor of the commander's responsibility. The tongues of delusion disseminated disgraceful falsehoods for the deceived ones and others who shouted during demonstrations, raised placards, and chanted slogans in a number of Arab states, some of whom exploited this to achieve internal party objectives. They disseminated that this was the hero, the liberator of Jerusalem. They disseminated that this was the coercer of colonialism and destroyer of imperialism. They disseminated that he was the hero leader who would annihilate Israel. In fact, they disseminated, as he did himself, that he was the messenger of God's care to uphold the banners of Islam, spread justice, save the poor, and other things. The person they have made these disseminations about is the first to realize that all these delusions and lies were made by the trumpets of his media on which he spent billions in order to conceal his crime of occupying an Arab state and a friendly, weak neighbor that had always been generous in its aid to him. Through his sick imagination, and sicker calculations, he believed that these demonstrations constituted his way to the leadership he was dreaming of, and so long as he had become a leader, then any Arab force that liberated Kuwait was a despotic and traitorous force, and any international forces that implemented, along with the Arab forces, the UN Security Council's resolution to liberase Kuwait, were forces that had crossed oceans to topple him, destroy his military power, and cancel Iraq from the map of the world. This is the game in which some of who are living with a forties and fifties' mentality have taken part, a game that capitalized on the Palestinian people's cause and deceived the Arab masses with Israel's alleged slogans of throwing it into the sea. Throughout this time, it was Egypt that fought. It was Egypt that sacrificed the pure blood of thousands of its sons. And, it was Egypt that lost thousands of billions in its wars for the sake of the Palestine question and the security of the Arab world.

Where is the Jerusalem he liberated? Where is the Israel that he destroyed and annihilated? Where is Islam, which this tyrant has turned into killing, plundering, rape, and torture with barbaric means, killing women in front of their fathers and children, gouging out the eyes with fire rods, and splitting heads with axes?

What has the fair treatment of the poor got to do with the destruction and burning of oil wells and poisoning of the seas? Who brought the American, British, French, and other allied forces to our land? Who is the one who brought the forces of the Iraqi Army to destruction and collapse? Did Iraq's ruler have sufficient opportunity over six months to accept the Security Council resolutions and withdraw within the timeframe set by the Security Council? Had he done this, there would have been no war, devastation, or destruction.

Brothers and sisters, would it not have been more honorable and nobler for him to withdraw when every international leader was asking him to, and giving advice through various means of persuasion and reasoning, instead of being forced into a humiliating and disgraceful withdrawal and his forces' surrender, the destruction of his army's vehicles, and casualties from his army running into the tens of thousands?

Did we not warn him thirty times through messages and appeals on behalf of every man, woman, and child, with all due respect and the desire to save face? Did we not caution him about terrible and horrible endings? Did we not say at the time that there would be humiliating and disgraceful endings? Even after the land war began—which, according to his abstract, not to mention stupid, calculations, he did not expect would take place out of fear of his false and hollow threats—did our efforts to advise him to declare his withdrawal and acceptance of Security Council resolutions stop? We did all this. I say it clearly: We did this even hours before the start of the ground battle. Besides, international efforts in all capitals did not stop.

The Soviet Union intervened, advising—rather, warning—him to assess things carefully and to accept international resolutions. But he equivocated and cheated after he accused Soviet Leader Gorbachev of subservience—even Gorbachev has become involved in subservience. No one was excluded from subservience. Moscow, over ten days, did not obtain from him the required resolution; instead, he put forth impossible conditions. Among these conditions was that he be rewarded for what he had done, and that Iraq's right to the annexation of Kuwait must not go—what a strange thing. One of his offers was that withdrawal would be completed in 21 days. Brothers and sisters, did he not finally withdraw in hours?

I tried with all efforts, sincerity, and perseverance, together with the brother leaders of the Arab nation and the friendly leaders of the world forces, west and east—I tried, they tried, all of us tried to avoid this war which was imposed by international legitimacy, and then we tried to avoid its continuation. But from this tyrant, we only found intransigence, obstinacy, twisted promises, procrastinating pledges, and childish prevarications that scorned fates and destinies. He contradicted himself in the same sentence. His promises and what they implied confirmed his clear intention to evade their implementation. Then there were pompous speeches and quixotic rhetoric that deceived the one making them before deceiving the Arab nation's masses with lies, deception, and distortions of every fact. Amid this there was an evil, bloody insistence on recklessly sacrificing the thousands of innocent lives from Iraq's Army and people. Then there was an even more evil madness, a desire to see all around him scenes of devastation, torn corpses, oil wells ablaze, contaminated sea waters, facilities in Kuwait which he destroyed before withdrawing, and property he stole under the cover of darkness.

The near future will reveal the ugliness of vile murders, the likes of which history has never known—not even during the worst eras of tyranny and repression—crimes committed and ordered by Iraq's ruler. His sole concern in the first communiques was to lay down imaginary conditions to which he added the condition of safeguarding his regime and not endangering his life. He continued to procrastinate with his conditions in the hope of gaining time that would prevent the continuation of fighting because of changes in the weather, and would give him time to find excuses for not carrying out the withdrawal.

Thus, he dealt with two faces: One face announcing agreement to withdraw, and another one simultaneously destroying and burning the oil wells; one face showing a desire for peace, and another one avoiding implementation of the Security Council resolutions. Thus, it was natural for the Soviet Union to declare its solidarity with the other coalition countries regarding the inevitability of unconditional withdrawal and compliance with all the Security Council resolutions. Iraq's ruler lost four days by accepting them piecemeal, one after the other.

Brothers and sisters: A chapter has been closed, and a new one has started. The days of darkness have ended, and the dawn of a new day has arisen. The terrible tragedy is over, and Kuwait is now liberated. Our Armed Forces, in cooperation with the Arab and coalition forces, have performed their heroic role in the liberation battle. [applause]

The largest international newspapers—based on their military correspondents' dispatches from the battlefield—as well as all military commanders in the coalition, praised the bravery, splendid performance, and strong thrust of the Egyptian fighter. [applause] They also praised the Egyptian Armed Forces' completion of all their combat duties within a shorter period of time than specified by military operations plans. [applause] This is a new, glorious role to be added to the glories of our Armed Forces in safeguarding Arab security. They fought with faith and conviction. They made their thrusts valiantly, bravely, and in a manly way. They achieved the objectives through military science and superior performance. Every fighter is a credit to Egypt and to every family in Egypt. Egypt, the people of Kuwait, and free ones everywhere will not forget our righteous martyrs who gave their lives in the most honorable battle. Brothers and sisters, I request that we stand for two minutes to salute the souls of our martyrs and all martyrs of the victory of the liberation of Kuwait. [brief period of silence observed]

Brothers and sisters: The flag of Kuwait has been hoisted in Kuwait. The Egyptian flag has been hoisted over the Egyptian Embassy in the free, independent, and sovereign State of Kuwait. Obviously, we did not want the stubbornness, conceit, and arrogance of Iraq's ruler to lead to any combat with the Arab Army of Iraq. It is he who decided, wanted, and persistently insisted on that. It is he who declared at the closed session of the Casablanca Arab summit conference and in a meeting with the Arab Lawyers Union that the Arabs have the right to mobilize their armies against the Army of Iraq if it encroaches on the sovereignty of an Arab state.

From this podium, brothers and sisters, I address every member of our Armed Forces on the battlefield. I proudly tell them: Glory to those who make glory. Dignity for those who fought with dignity for the sake of their people and their Arab nation. [applause] The Egyptian flag is worthy of the arms of men.

From this podium, too, I address the fraternal people of Iraq, the Army of Iraq, and whoever this war was imposed on in Kuwait and Iraq. I tell them: The people of Egypt are the Iraqi people's brethren. This brotherhood will not be wasted by the decision of one individual. The people of Egypt will not hesitate to contribute to the reconstruction of Iraq. The people of Iraq are an indivisible part of the Arab nation. They must play their political, cultural, and social role in the days ahead. I tell Baghdad radio stations: Enough of lies, misleading, and deception. Do not turn the genuine Arab Iraq, the land of culture and history, into a laughing stock for the world through fallacious statements on illusionary battles in which you annihilate thousands of people every day. Enough of this unsuccessful comedy after you have inflicted on Iraq, its Army, and people a sadness whose traces decades will not be able to erase—something that will relegate those responsible for this catastrophe to the darkest corner of our contemporary history.

Brothers and sisters, I regret having heard in the recent past someone who, through enviable courage and sugar-coated words, tried to absolve himself of this serious responsibility, imagining that history could be deceived by exposed disguises that can be put on every occasion shamelessly.

From this podium, I address the Kuwaiti people on the territory of Kuwait, [applause] who have patiently suffered from the most hideous practices of the tyrannical occupation, who have been exposed to the most heinous crimes of coercion, torture, and plunder, the latest being the burning of the first-class hotels, plunder of their goods, and the arrests of hundreds of people and their transfer to Iraq—all in the last hours before withdrawal. However, the forces of the popular resistance did not hesitate for one day to challenge and confront. I also address the people of Kuwait in Egypt and on all Arab territories. I tell all of them: With warm congratulations on the liberation of your country, Kuwait, it behooves you to be proud that none of you betrayed the trust or collaborated with usurpation, repression, and aggression. [applause] Once again, I tell them: It behooves you to be proud that none of you betrayed the trust or collaborated with usurpation, tyranny, and aggression.

Brothers and sisters; members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council: We do not gloat, but we sympathize. We are not hailing an abominable defeat and destruction, but we are hoping for an early awakening and an enlightened vigilance that lead our eyes and minds ahead. We do not advocate withdrawing into the shell of our bloody present or wallowing in pain and sadness. However, we are advocates of a call for a future outlook that deals seriously and efficiently with the Arab situation and the new world order, to implement what has been lost in terms of entity, structure, and destiny.

Any wise person should benefit from the lesson of the ordeal and all the bitter effects it brought to the Arab entity after we had reached a base for solidarity, cohesion, and integrated planning for the sake of present and future times. Then, the disaster took place. If the disaster has pushed us back to dark, distant corners, the responsibility of Arab leaders and people in the first place is to work to treat this dangerous situation. All hands should proceed to cooperate and agree on a base for moving toward a better future and a new life in which wounds will heal, the causes of collapse will disappear, and new and renewable blood will flow in veins after this heavy bleeding which almost killed the Arab nation. The hard experience is in front of all of us. Throughout the Arab homeland there is a lesson. The future will be more severe and more bitter if Arab forces—official or popular—continue to follow the same course of contradictions which will become more complicated if we leave our destiny to be steered by whims, controlled by oneupmanship, overwhelmed by diverse groups, and a marketplace for slogans and chants. Thus, the policies of fooling people will worsen under slogans of diverse orientations and wishes. The nearest example in this regard, as I said, is what an Arab official said very recently, disregarding the awareness and dignity of the masses.

O Arab nation, pause and consider, pause for self-exploration. Be sincere and candid within yourselves and base your dealing on the purity of words and deeds. We are not here to settle accounts or exacerbate differences. Rather, all doors must be closed to all those who want to use the catastrophe to exercise oneupmanship. Suffice us what has befallen us. We are facing urgent essential issues. If the Iraqi ruler has forced us to have foreign troops which help us defend the sovereignty of an Arab state against the aggression of another Arab state, we must realize that the entire Arab nation has political, economic, and social potential and capabilities which enable us alone to establish a new basis for proceeding toward a better future [applause]. We should not waste this enormous potential. Suffice us the greatest and gravest squandering of our material and spiritual potential in the history of the Arab nation. We do not want a split between east and west [in the Arab world], we do not want a continuation of the campaigns of rancor, the deceptive calls, slogans for cheap exploitation of events, or movements of venomous maneuvers and tricks.

We do not want the Arab nation [to be] two nations. We do not want the same Arab people to be divided people deceived by malicious aims that prompt them to fight within the same country.

It is not the overt and covert currents that control the conscience and correct path of people, as well as these people's just and legitimate right to a future of peace, security, cooperation, solidarity, and rallying around principles with all honor and trust.

The Arab world faces fateful causes. Views must agree on the ways to confront them so that they will proceed along the right course. We have the Palestinian people's cause to deal with. It is a people's cause, not an issue of leadership, oneupmanship, maneuvers, and conspiracies. [applause] I repeat, it is a people's cause, not an issue of leadership, oneupmanship, maneuvers, and conspiracies. The Palestinian people are the primary party that has the right to determine its destiny, after all the years of suffering, manipulation of slogans, and contradictions among leaders until the major cause was fragmented into an isue of disputes among individuals and trading accusations.

No one disagrees that the solution of the Palestinian cause is the first key to a durable and just peace in the Arab region. We do not capitalize on this cause. We have had enough frivolity in our Arab history. It is a ridiculous claim by which they said that the occupation of Kuwait was the road to Jerusalem. We must tear all these corrupt leaves so that a new, chaste, and serious chapter will begin that will restore to this just and [word indistinct] cause its brilliance and soundness so that the flags of peace will rise with faithful hearts, open minds, and a will for solutions—not speeches and maneuvers. The Palestinian people are a trust in our hands and we will not betray the trust.

We have the issue of Golan and the issue of the unified Arab people in Lebanon. They all are interlinked causes. The time has come for us to embark on their expeditious and decisive solution toward stability and peace.

We have the issue of Arab security in front of us. It is an issue of utmost importance and worthy of priority after the Arab nation was subjected to the most dangerous threat to its integrity and fate with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and with all the subsequent catastrophes and horrors. Arab security must only be an Arab one that will provide all immunity and protection for this part of the world. [applause]

We also have the issues of economic and social development and the integration required by a collective and planned development that will achieve social justice and utilize the great Arab capabilities in resources, manpower, and scientific progress to build an Arab nation that is firm, strong, proud, and noble and which will enjoy a prominent standing in dealing with the new world order which is based on peace and technological and economic competition, and enhanced political democracy.

We have before us the issues of the old border disputes. We have before us the issue of cooperating with the Iraqi people, who have not split off from their Arab nation. The Iraqi people are the masters of their destiny and have the primary right to determine it. They are now experiencing the bloody tragedy brought about by the tyranny of wrong over right and the ambitions of the individual at the expense of the freedom of millions

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council. All these fateful and grave issues demand from us a concept that deals with reality from a basis of strength and solidarity and that frankly faces facts from hearts devoid of whims and caprices. My call for an Arab reconciliation is not one of declarations, statements, and canned slogans. Words are easy in our political lexicon and in our Arab region. My call is for an Arab frankness that adheres to truth and deep faith that the decline and even collapse that we have reached can lead us to something harsher and more bitter if all of us do not rise up to the level of the grave situation. It should be frankness that builds and does not destroy and that protects and does not divide. I believe that Egypt began this frankness at the Arab Summit Conference held in Casablanca, which was the first meeting of the Arab summit that I attended following Egypt's return to the Arab League. If you remember, at that conference, I submitted specific points which I believed were good to enrich the single pan-Arab march. Following the bloody events which began with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, I would like to add to them the following points:

1. We have no time to waste or effort to squander in thinking about revenge or vengeance or settling accounts. We must fold this sad page in our history and look with our hearts and eyes toward the future with all the hope it carries for our people.

2. We must do our utmost to restore confidence in the circle of the Arab family in the shortest possible time so that doubts will not spread and divisions deepen in our ranks. No nation can embark on a joint action if doubt and suspicion dominate the minds of its nation.

3. The events of the ill-omened invasion and its aftermath make it necessary that each one of us declare the concept of his pan-Arab and regional objectives and of the means to be followed to achieve these objetives. Each Arab country should have prior knowledge of what the other countries intend to seek and achieve.

4. In the coming months and years we must double the efforts to settle existing differences among all the Arab countries, foremost of which are the border disputes, even if this requires the adoption of a new mechanism that increases our ability to overcome problems and difficulties that disturb Arab relations.

5. We must act quickly to complete our concept of conditions in the region after the war, with emphasis on two fundamental points—security and development. They are two integral and interlinked elements that we cannot separate or think of one of them without the other. Collective thinking and constant consultations must be used to reach this concept. The future of all of us depends on our success in formulating a common and integral concept.

6. Events have proven the soundness of what we have been calling for over two years. That is, the Middle East must be made free of mass destruction weapons. This should include the entire region, including Israel. [applause] When we called for this, the ruler and leadership of Iraq objected. The region should be free of mass destruction weapons—nuclear, chemical, and biological. We should consider other means to curb the stockpiling of weapons in the region and the race to possess and use them.

7. The establishment of peace and security in the region requires from all of us to do our utmost to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute, especially its Palestinian aspect. This is because this dispute is a major source for anxiety and tension in the region. It involves the region in a vicious circle of violence and counterviolence.

8. To boost a comprehensive reconstruction in the next phase, we should work to expand the basis of participation of every Arab citizen in public action and bolster the march of democracy through the means to be decided by each Arab country and in a manner that is in keeping with its circumstances and experiences.

9. We must be alert to the falsity of the slogans that were raised in the turmoil of the events of the sad past seven months and that tried to depict what had happened as a conflict between East and West, between Muslims and non-Muslims, or as a return to the crusades. All this is false and groundless. The conflict took place between legitimacy and anarchy, between right and wrong, and between good and bad. We thank God that Arab legitimacy has been identical to international legitimacy and that the eventual victory was for right and good against the forces of aggression and injustice.

This is my pan-Arab appeal. On behalf of you and of the Egyptian people, I address it to the Arab people on these decisive days in which sound awareness can lead us toward progress and awakening.

The flow of divisions and slogans of oneupmanship may drive us to a more miserable destiny, which we must not accept for ourselves. History and generations will never forgive us. The blood of a free, honorable life will not return to our Arab nation if we slacken and if we continue to revolve around ourselves in endless and bottomless vicious circles.

Brothers and sisters, I know you are waiting from me words about our economic situation after we were gravely hit because of the disaster of the invasion. That was added to our existing back- breaking troubles which have clear negative effects on our daily life. I know that you are expecting from me a word on this issue which concerns every family in Egypt. Today I will be satisfied with saying in this vital, important field that our brethren in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and other Gulf states are fully aware of the facts of our economic circumstances. They believe with good faith that a strong Egypt in structure and economy is the Egypt of commitment to principles and honorable stands. It is the Egypt that never relinquishes its vanguard role whatever hardship this produces. Important contacts were held regarding this. I hope the results of these contacts will emerge soon. This is apart from the steps that were taken at the beginning of the invasion.

Egypt will play its constructive role in the reconstruction of Kuwait. The brothers welcome Egyptian labor in all fields of development. This labor will enjoy all care and honorable treatment. This is the topic of the fair agreements that are being discussed.

Brothers and sisters, I am full of hope about the near and distant future. What lies ahead of us is a stretched, promising road leading to prosperous and peaceful prospects. This confidence does not come from a vacuum. It is inspired by the genuine, great people of Egypt, who stood as one man and felt with one heart from the beginning of the crime of the invasion. With spontaneous, cultural awareness, they made their position known. They are the people of the sound decision at the sound time. The genuine, great people of Egypt have vigorously overcome tendentious temptations which attempted to reverse facts to them, to distort the image within their conscience, or to address their sentiments through superficial slogans and deceptive calls. The millions of the genuine, great people of Egypt erected a great barrier which rejected flimsy remarks and proudly ignored the provocations of extremists and the allegations of instigators. The great, genuine people of Egypt, based on their historical conscience, have refused to be a victim of ploys [applause] or trumpets for false slogans. The genuine, great people of Egypt have ridiculed those who wanted to disregard their intelligence and awareness. They have disregarded those who imagined that they could deceive these people. The genuine, great people of Egypt have raised the slogan of genuine, great Egypt, thus dismissing all slogans of forgery and deceit and all calls for intimidation.

Brothers and sisters, the genuine, great people of Egypt are a people of principle, dignity, and honor. They have supported their Armed Forces in the battle of Arab dignity, thus constituting a solid, cohesive front under one flag, the Egyptian flag. [applause] Egypt is the peace that does not betray. Egypt is the shield that protects and safeguards. Egypt cannot be sold or bought anytime. [applause] Egypt has suffered and suffers without relinquishing its dignity or making capital out of its stands and principles. Egypt is looking forward to a new Arab world that believes that time is gold if we work sincerely and honestly, and that gold is dust if we cannot catch up with the march of development and construction or if we fail to be a society linked with honesty and loyalty and the rules of respect for human rights.

Brothers and sisters, we are proceeding in an honorable march. We are an unshakable model, an inextinguishable torch, and an unwavering will in building the present for the sake of the future. May God deepen our faith. May God grant us force, wellbeing, and guidance. God grants His mercy to whoever He wishes. God is of great favors. God is all-capable. May God grant us success. The peace of God be upon you. [applause]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Gives Jamahiriyah Day Speech

LD0303110291 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0134 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to People's Committee meeting in Surt on the 14th anniversary of the Great Jamahiriyah—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Today we are marking this historic occasion—the establishment of the Jamahiriyah and the proclamation of the people's power. This anniversary must have a meaning, and our celebration and meeting must have a content from which we ought to draw lessons for organizing our life and future. In marking such an anniversary, it should not be like those which used to be held in the era of ignorance [period preceding Islam]. [passage omitted]

Are people's representations really being established abroad, consisting of ordinary people chosen by the people; and are the duties that were carried out by the regular army really being carried out by the armed people; and is the security assumed by the repressive police in all parts of the world being carried out by the people's masses; does this political picture really have a material content, an economic content; and have the social relations changed in this country and has wealth in the Jamahiriyah really been equally distributed to the members of the people, as expressed in the Green Book, which brought together the evident truths? In reality the situation differs to a great extent.

Despite their struggle for toppling authority, the masses everywhere, including Libya, have no wish or readiness to practice authority, and this is the dilemma. [passage omitted]

Today, however, we have the means, which is the people's congresses and the people's committees as well as the armed people, people's police and socialism—the new socialism, which has never been implemented anywhere.

However, we have a problem here in Libya. The problem has nothing to do with the means, which are very clear and very simple—in other words, the Jamahiriyah is a primitive system in a modern form and, therefore, it is not a complex and difficult system. It is simply that congresses and committees should be everywhere, wealth should be equally distributed among the people, and we all should be partners and wage earners. People should undergo simple military training, become an armed people, and carry out police duties. Very simple and primitive things. Primitive, yet modern things. They are not, therefore, complicated at all.

Selecting the people's committee is being done through elections, free and direct elections with no polling booths; no one should be proposed for elections, no polling papers and therefore no counting of the vote is necessary. This means, therefore, that half of the problem has been resolved—in other words, how our people would form their own government. What remains is the other half of the problem, which deals with the desire of ordinary people to exercise power. And this is a real problem which we can no longer ignore.

Ordinary people in Libya have no wish to exercise power, nor can they tolerate power being exercised over them. If we were to appoint a president of the republic tomorrow, people would not accept him; if we were to appoint a government, people would begin to criticize it. If the government did this, the ministers would also be criticized. If a group of people were to set up a council of ministers or a parliament, or if a president were to issue orders, laws, and decisions that affect the people's food, clothing, life, housing, education, and health, people would reject them. They will say that no one should issue laws and orders on our behalf; we should issue such laws.

In reality, however, those people who assert that they ought to be able to issue laws themselves only say this inside their own homes; they do not say it in the place where power is being exercised, in other words the people's congress. This is a problem. Laws and decisions must be issued, however, and measures must be taken daily. If they are not issued by people's congresses, they must be issued by someone else. And who is this someone else as far as Libya is concerned, in a Jamahiri system? Of course, this problem will open the door wide to anyone to replace the people at any level. A secretary of a company's people committee might replace the people and do as he wishes. [passage omitted]

Take any government. Up to now they deceive you and say this is a civil and a democratic government; Britain, for instance. All the simple-minded in the world say that Britain is civil or the mother of democracies; they, the government of this mother of democracies, hit the people in the street with brimstone, burning stones, pour boiling water on them and trample them under horses' hooves. They, the British police, pull the British citizens around as if they were pulling slaughtered sheep. Why? Because these citizens rejected the decisions made by the government, the poll tax which Thatcher set up for instance; every British citizen pays a tax for himself, the Turks call it tassa [words indstinct]. She imposed it on them and they rejected it. She, the prime minister, decided that she wanted every citizen to pay. She saw it that way but the people did not. They saw that that was [words indistinct], they protested against her and she hit them with brimstone and trampled them under horses' hooves. Thus, if you set up a government even if you were in Britain, as they say, you would exercise your authority of oppression, your authority of exploitation. [passage omitted]

The evidence in the world today, brothers, which we must remember, confirms that people have nothing before them but to determine their destinies themselves; the farce and masquerade of the Gulf, which we told you about right from the first day, is enough—and how it ended! And its ropes are still long. Who decided that? A group of mad people in reality, it was not decided by the peoples; however, who got burned in it? The peoples, the ordinary citizen. If you, ordinary citizens, meet in an Arab or Western country, and (?it) decides on this tragedy and masquerade, (?how did this happen), however, he found himself in fire, compelled; one surrenders himself; one dies and does not know what for and is not convinced of the reason for which he dies; and (?flees) and none of them know why they were put into this fire. There should not be democracy such as this. What is required is the proclamation of peoples' authority. This has taught us a lesson, that peoples' authority must be established from Iraq to America and everywhere else in the world. Let us see the people decide for themselves [words indsitinct]. We have been faced up to now by a group of people who are controlling the people, deciding their fate, barbecuing them like sheep and chickens. Guiding them like a herd of sheep. You have been hearing on the radio how people have been transformed into herds. One screaming, one looking for something to eat, some running, some crawling, and some slaughtered and dead. Like sheep. Who decided this? Governments did. The American people never decided that its soldiers should go to the Gulf. They could not care less. They were writing every day that there should be no blood for oil. Despite the American people, however, there has been blood for oil. Therefore, it was not the American people's decision; it was the decision of a tyrannical government.

The Iraqi people did not hold a meeting to decide to occupy Kuwait. This is a clear matter. People would have to be convinced to die for the cause. We have seen that the people there were not convinced about the positions in which they found themselves. [passage omitted]

Even the soldiers did not know where they were going, they had no knowledge of the kind of soil or the, stars, sky, moon, and sun of the area. They did not know these things. The president knew about the world map, however; he sent his sons to this place against their will. Would you like such a tragedy to be repeated? Would we like our fate to be like that? This should not be repeated in the future.

Therefore, the new world order is not the order mentioned by the U.S. President or by those who rule their people. They can impose such order by force for a limited time; however, force does not last forever. The new world order is the order of the masses. This order cannot be brought about by a cease-fire, or in the Gulf, or at the United Nations. No, this order will be achieved thanks to the struggle and advance of the peoples, which cannot be halted by Bush or his aircraft carriers or raids, or his alliance. They just cannot halt the advance of the people. [applause, slogans]

Thus, the new world order is the order of the masses; it is not decided by allied forces or by those against them, or by the United Nations. This can only be decided by the people, and by the masses. Agitation should continue to realize the new world order, which is the Jamahiri order based on people's authority; armies and rulers should be abolished, their apparatus should be removed, and there should be an end to their farce and hegemony over the peoples, whom they dragged to hell to be roasted like sheep and birds.

The new world order is socialism, not the type of socialism that exists in Romania, Bulgaria, or Moscow. I mean socialism, and the type of socialism that has not yet been implemented. All present regimes in the world are imperialist regimes. They should be made to collapse, wherever they may be. This socialism will triumph. One finds that millions of workers in the West are controlling factories without having to resort to fighting. The strong imperialism of the West was forced to accept socialism. How did it accept it? Because millions of workers dropped their productivity; their individual incentive to produce declined because they work in return for a salary from a capitalist and exploiting company director. These companies have no alternative to losing, other than to let the workers own shares in the companies. [passage omitted]

We do not care whether they call it people's capitalism or people's socialism. It does not matter. The important thing is that ownership has been restored to the workers. [passage omitted]

The masses everywhere are defying the governments and marching to power. The U.S. President cannot use aircraft carriers against demonstrations in his capital. This means that the demonstrations will one day succeed and reach the White House. Reaching the White House means reaching the Bastille. The fate of the White House will be the same as the Bastille's. If the Bastille fell in a bloody revolution, the White House might not—it could be a white revolution. The important thing is the end of the Bastille. The Bastille will definitely end. All the governments currently existing in the world do not feel at all secure in their positions and do not feel that they have a future. All the rulers I have seen and all the governments have been expressing their concern that they have no future and that the streets have been exerting pressure on the governments to topple them. [passage omitted]

If we do not want the tragedy we are now witnessing to be repeated—where thousands of men who were enjoying their human rights a few days ago are now herds of sheep—if we do not want that to be repeated or to happen to us, or to be repeated anywhere else in the world, then we have no alternative to establishing the peoples' authority and to establish the Jamahiriyahs and to bury the wars forever. [passage omitted]

Where is the peace established by a nuclear deterrent? Here is a country like Iraq, which had no nuclear deterrent. It was claimed that it had a chemical deterrent. All right, why did that chemical deterrent not stop the war from happening? It would not stop the war from happening. They are now fighting on Iraqi territories. They are inside Iraqi territories.

Therefore, even those countries that have a real nuclear deterrent participated in the war. Even the countries which have some sort of deterrent found themselves in the war. Therefore, deterrence by arms can never achieve peace. This has been confirmed. Only the Jamahiri regime can achieve peace, because then the armies, police, governments, and parliaments will be abolished, and the people's congresses and people's committee will be established and the Jamahiri regime will be proclaimed in the world. Only then will true eternal peace be achieved in the world, because the Iraqi people and the American people do not hate each other.

Italy participated in the war with 10 aircraft. What is the relationship between the Italian people and the Iraqi people? Do they hate the Iraqi people? How could they want the Kuwaiti people to hate the Iraqi people? How could we interpret that? The people do not hate each other. The people like each other. If they like the Kuwaiti people, then they should like the Iraqi people, because the Iraqi people did not decide to fight the American people or the Italian people or the Kuwaiti people. They did not decide that.

They say: We have no problem with the Iraqi people. Very good. The Iraqi people are innocent. Your people have nothing to do with the Iraqi people. Even the Iraqi Government says: We have no problem with the American people, and we hate neither the American people nor the French people nor the Italian people. This is a clear indictment. There is no hatred between the people. Then between whom? Between the rulers. And the victims are the people. Do the rulers fight themselves? No, they fight, using these people. These innocent people whom they have themselves said are innocent and without mutual hatred.

This tragedy has revealed to us these facts. But on another level there are questions: How could America and its allies fight on Arab territories? Iraq thought that as soon as the landing of these forces on Arab territories began, and as soon as the fighting began, that all hell would break loose and revolutions and uprisings would erupt, and the Arab and Islamic people would participate in the mother of battles. Why did this not happen? The reasons must be clear. When we talk about the peoples' authority, then the people who handle the authority should be perceptive and understand the responsibility. The one who does not understand cannot shoulder the responsibility. The duty of the revolutionaries is to raise the level of the masses. It is to increase the understanding of the masses and to educate the masses, not to rule them. The rulers rule the masses, but the revolutionaries educate the masses. This is the duty that we as revolutionaries have been practicing since the beginning of the revolution and the people's authority. It is the education of the masses. When the masses really understand then they shoulder the responsibility. This is an explanation.

There are a number of reasons, the first of which is that the Iraq-Iran war has not been erased from the memories of the Muslims in particular. This is because Iraq started to fight Iran during the Islamic revolution. The Islamic revolution, with its slogans that it will march on Jerusalem and that it will storm the whole east. Iraq confronted that revolution, turned its back, and forced it to remain as Iran and not as an Islamic revolution.

This is an important point in people's minds, especially Islamic peoples. How could Pakistan fight on America's side? How could Bangladesh, an Islamic country, send forces to fight on the side of America? How could Niger, an Islamic country, send forces to fight with America? How could the Afghan mujahidin send forces to fight with America? You heard what their president said on Libyan radio. How could all this happen? Because the Iran-Iraq war remained in their minds and had, by way of consequence, a negative effect on the confrontation with the West. There is doubt about whether it is a confrontation between an Islamic force and America. This is one point clarifying the Islamic force's reluctance to rise up and why it should not, on the contrary, fight on America's side. [sentence as heard]

On the other hand, the forces which came to fight were led in fact by America, with an American backbone. They were driven by American and Western hatred against the Arabs and so forth, in favor of the Israelis. They were driven by the aim of destroying an Arab military force, which has now become a gain to the Israelis. This fact was brought forth, however, in the name of the United Nations. The American aggression against us in 1986 was not stipulated by a Security Council resolution. On the contrary, the Security Council condemned the American aggression against Libya, as did the United Nations. America was the only one that took the responsibility of a state that committed aggression against another state. What is taking place now, however, has UN support, and was stiplulated by Security Council resolutions. It was the Security Council that issued a resolution stipulating the use of force against Iraq, and allowing the countries that could do so to use force against Iraq. This was under American influence, but at the end of the day, people will not impute it to lobbying, which they do not think exists in the Security Council. People will think that the United Nations passed resolutions allowing the use of force against Iraq. Those who are aware of it understand the resolutions and know their numbers. These resolutions started with 660. People know the UN Charter Articles 41, 42, and 43 and all those articles that were used until the blockade was imposed—then the use of force. These are gradual articles which went as far as the use of force according to the UN Charter.

When America landed its forces in Saudi Arabia and announced that it would engage in confrontation, I, myself, sent a message to America, despite the fact that relations between the two countries have been severed. This was through Belgium, which represents U.S. interests in Libya, while the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Embassy represents Libyan interests in America. I sent him a message asking him: Why are you meddling in this problem? You are a state like any other state. Who allowed you to say that you want to liberate Kuwait [word indistinct]. The fact that you come to Saudi Arabia is entirely up to you. Saudi Arabia is supposed to be a free country. It asked for your help, and you responded to that call. You are free to do so, and you can go and defend it, whether [word indistinct] forces stamp on Mecca. These are issues concerning the Arab people in the Arabian peninsula, and it is up to this people to accept or reject them—but Kuwait and related issues are not your business. These are the prerogatives of the United Nations. Should American forces enter on their own they will be faced with resistance, because it will be considered as an American aggression, because you will be playing a role that you are not allowed to play. Who allowed you to go and liberate this country? Who asked you to do so? This is the business of the United Nations.

Consequently, there was a retreat, and an implementation [sentence as heard]. Naturally, America continued leading the operation, but it did so under the cover of a Security Council session which decided to use force against Iraq, allowing any country capable of using force to do so.

America took advantage of this and said: That is it, in implementation of the resolution of the Security Council we are among the states that can use force to preserve world peace; come, you West—and you Germans and Japanese, you finance—and go and drive Iraq from Kuwait. This is a fact, important information that made people confront not America and the West, but the forces of the United Nations, international forces. In 1956, when the aggression against Egypt took place, the United Nations was against it, the Security Council was against it, and the whole world against it. The Soviet Union issued a warning for the tripartite aggression to stop. Why? Because it was an unjust aggression which did not occur on order from the United Nations, by a resolution from the Security Council. And therefore the aggression was condemned, condemned by the United Nations itself. The aggression against Libya was also condemned by the United Nations itself. But now the United Nations supports military action against Iraq, with resolutions from the Security Council.

This made the operation [words indistinct] when you find [words indistinct] against the United Nations, against the Security Council resolution. Even though America, according to President Chadli, was behind the whole operation, and America is now replacing the Security Council, giving it the order to adopt this and that. This is a fact; it is a powerful state. But the Security Council cannot issue a resolution saying: We condemn the aggression against Iraq. It said: We support the use of force against Iraq.

The other important point is Arab states against Arab states. The question is not clear. In 1956, it was not Arab states; Egypt did commit aggression against Sudan for Egypt to be subjected to the tripartite aggression. No, Egypt had nationalized the Suez canal, its right, and it was subjected to aggression. And consequently, all the nation was behind 'Abd-al-Nasir. But now it is a question between the lawful and the unlawful. Even if they were imaginary ministates called Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, Muscat, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Morocco, Somalia, Djibouti, [word indistinct] all these are in one rank against Iraq, with the UN forces.

Ten Arab states on this side; and if you place yourself on the other side, you are faced with ten Arab states.

We ask the alien: Why did you come in? He would say: I came in because one of you committed an aggression against another of you; because Iraq entered Kuwait. I came to help the Kuwaitis. This is, in fact, what made people unable definitely to decide their position on the matter, even at the level of individuals and political and revolutionary ensembles. They say: We have found the libraries of Kuwait on fire, homes destroyed; and we found—I do not know—dead children. When people hear of an act like this, they say: I cannot support it. How can I support somebody who has burned down a library? But who (?supports) this battle? Who was issuing these orders that were obeyed without hesitation?

Who is the master who gave orders in this battle? Undoubtedly, whatever answer you give will be wrong. [some in audience mention Bush] It is not Bush. No, No. Bush is the slave of the master I am going to mention. This master is Arab oil. Yes, the Kuwaiti dinar and the Saudi riyal are the masters who ordered Bush to come and fight. [applause] The masters are the Kuwaiti dinar and the Saudi riyal which brought the Americans forcibly to come like mercenaries and fight. Arab oil is the master. Why do the Western countries not come and fight with the Palestinian people—who do not have riyals or dinars—against the Israelis, and implement the Security Council resolution? [applause] The Security Council made so many resolutions, but no one implemented its resolutions by force. In this battle, however, the master is the Kuwaiti dinar. No one should be proud.

Unfortunately, I saw a Kuwaiti citizen kissing the American flag in Kuwait. I do not know whether you have seen this or not. This is a poor person, ignorant, and in error. He thinks that it was the American flag that liberated Kuwait. It was the Kuwaiti dinar that did it. The Americans are considered the mercenaries of the Kuwaitis. They came against their will because of the dinar and riyal. They asked the Italians, the English, the French, and the Americans with half a million soldiers to come, and they all said yes. Dinars and riyals brought the American aircraft carriers, gave the Americans sleepless nights for forty days, and made Bush give speeches day in and day out. The Kuwaiti dinar is the master. Long live the Kuwaiti dinar, the Saudi riyal, and Arab oil. [applause]

They have been fighting as mercenaries for the Kuwaitis. Kuwait is a small country. It does not have armed forces capable of fighting the Iraqi Army. It has oil and dinars. So it ordered the Western forces to come and fight, and they could not say no. We should in fact look at the matter from this angle. We should look at them as mercenaries of Arab oil, the Arab dinar and riyal.

The Saudi king did not spend sleepless nights, or get tired, or anything. His riyal made the Americans and their President work. They were the ones who had sleepless nights in his place. The Kuwaiti amir did not get tired at all. He was in exile and did not even follow the progress of the operations. It was the American President who had sleepless nights. Why? Because his services were bought with dinars and riyals, not dollars. The dollar was useless. It was oil. They have fought as mercenaries, and billions of dinars and riyals are being paid daily to these forces, as are millions of barrels of oil. America and the American dollar cannot enter and are not willing to enter the battle.

South Africa is occupied, why does America not go and fight there? Why did it not fight in Namibia? Why did it not fight in Angola when it was colonzied? Why is it not fighting along with Palestine? So many countries are colonzied, why did America and the West not fight with them? The Amiri family in Kuwait and the Kuwaitis, the royal family in Saudi Arabia and the Saudis, should really be proud of the fact that they transformed the most powerful countries into servants who fight in their place while they sleep.

The Arabs have a master which is stronger than America, but we are not using it properly and we are spilling it into the sea. Unfortunately, beside the issue of war, the majority of people in the Gulf are from the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, [word indistinct] Korea. Hundreds of thousands came from these regions; hundreds of thousands are not Arabs. In fact, our brothers in the Gulf should have employed the poor Yeminis, the Sudanese, the Jordanians, the Syrians, the Mauritanians, the Maghrebans. A good share of Arab oil, which we called a master, has been going to non-Arabs; in other words, the oil of the Arabs is not for the Arabs. After this war, however, the principle of Arab oil to the Arabs must be underlined. I do not think there is one among the oil states which would tamper with this wealth from now on.

This has left a positive trace, despite Iraq's defeat. Even if one should lose everything at the end, he could at least expose people who might be behaving wrongly. Had there been a wise policy whereby Arab oil was distributed to the Arabs, this catastrophe would not have taken place. Kuwaitis might say that the Iraqis have been subjected to this catastrophe. Yes, but they are Arabs. The Arabs are subjected to this catastrophe. The Iraqi people would not have suffered, would not have been debased, or subjected to this catastrophe, had the Arab oil been equally distributed, had the oil policy been a conscious Arab policy, or had there been Arab unity. This is the conclusion we come to in the end.

I am, in fact, against the policy being practiced now in the Arab East. There are a number of foreign ministers of a group of Arab countries who have initiated periodic meetings these days. They are creating a separation, an axis, and they are making two leagues out of the Arab League. This does not lead to any positive result. This leads to a negative result. Unfortunately, it is being said that these are the foreign ministers of the countries opposing the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. This is wrong.

Who among us supported Iraq in occupying Kuwait? Except perhaps Jordan and the PLO, all these states, including [word indistinct] are against Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. How can they say the creation and the periodic meeting of this group is justified, the foreign ministers [words indistinct] Arab because these states are against the occupation of Iraq. Are we against? What is the meaning of this going into axes? As a matter of fact, this is a separatist spirit, and a dangerous entrenchment of fragmentation, a flaw in the one Arab front.

What we must be aware of is that we must resist any settlement imposed on the region; any settlement imposed by Western aircraft or warships must be rejected, especially if such a settlement encroaches on the Palestinian cause. Because any settlement in the current conditions would not be for the good of the Arabs, for the allies of the Israelis are victorious. The one who is victorious imposes a settlement, and therefore such a settlement would be for the good of the Israelis.

And we do not rule out that, after this farce, a number of Arab states might recognize the Israelis, such as what happened after the Ramadan war [October 1973]. Soldiers had fought bravely, peoples contributed, and politicians played with everything—and it proved to be a disaster. One has to be aware, and these words are addressed to all the Arab nation, aware of what is currently being rumored, to the effect that matters are going to be settled in the Middle East after this battle, and that there are arrangements. No, there are not; there is just one arrangement, an Arab arrangement, whether for the Arab house or for the Palestinian question, one Arab arrangement only [words indistinct]

If there were one Arab state, an Arab unity, then there would not be any aggression between an Arab state and another Arab state; there is no need for something called Kuwait and something called Iraq.

Today I spoke with the amir, Shaykh Jabir. I told him: We will congratulate you when we see Kuwait independent; it should not be that the Iraqi Army gets out of it and the American and British Armies enter it. If it were so, then Kuwait would be a colony—and perhaps the first colonziation [by Iraq] would have been easier, as in the end it would have been Arab. We must be sure that Kuwait has not swapped an occupation for another occupation. He affirmed this to me. He said to me: Yes, this is correct and reasonable, and Kuwait should not swap an occupation for another occupation. Then I told him that what mattered was the building of Kuwait, the building of pavement, walls and so forth, the building of Iraq, but what mattered was the building of Arab unity. He said to me: Correct, if there was an Arab unity. He said to me: Have you ever known me at any time being against Arab unity, and have I not been one of the first to support the project for an Arab union that you submitted for us at the Baghdad summit? True, in fact (?he was).

Consequently, as long as this wound is not healed by Arab unity, there will be all sorts of difficulties—including psychological ones—in the way of the Arab reunion. Furthermore, this aggression, and the boasting that preceded it, this nonsense and the violence that faced it, all these indicated that there are real dangers in the world and there is an unimaginable use of violence. We never thought that after World War II there would be an occupation of one state by another, or an alliance of countries, or that the story of the allies would repeat itself again.

This will have to make sincere Arabs think about the immediate establishment of unity. He who keeps telling you that regionalism is strong, differences are huge, and social, economic, and cultural structures are different among the Arab countries is a liar, and we Arabs should not listen to him. This is a separatist imposter who wants to have a people and a land on his own, and transform them into a group of sheep and grill them like lamb. There is no difference [applause] in the economic, social, or cultural structure among the sons of the Arab nations; and these borders are false ones which can be removed in one day, and all the gates can be removed. Any Arab ruler who hampers Arab unity must be removed, because the interest of the Arab nation is above the interest of these [word indistinct due to applause] separatists. [crowd chants unionist slogans]

On the whole, we will see from now on whether these chants are meant by the Arab masses or meaningless, whether there are people loyal to Arab unity and to this nation, whether there are people enthusiastic [for Arab unity], and whether there are unionists among the rulers and among the slogans.

This crisis must change the Arab reality. The differences between us are much less than the Berlin wall which separated one people. We are one people separated by twenty imaginary lines. These imaginary lines must be removed immediately. I challenge any Arab ruler, any Arab regime, any Arab government to remove borders [applause] between it and another Arab state. I challenge them: No problems would be created thereby. For example, let us remove completely borders between Libya and Tunisia. Naturally, borders on the Libyan side are removed. Let Tunisia remove its gate, and let the Tunisian people and the people—what is regrettably called the Libyan people and the Tunisian people—one Arab people, let it be free. I challenge them: There will be no problems.

And even if we create a unified state, there will be no problems. The system of factories will be the same, that of farms will be the same, shops will be the same. [passage omitted]

Let us completely remove borders between Libya and Egypt. Let us allow the Libyan people—what is called the Libyan people—and what is called the Egyptian people go to each other. There will be no problem at all. [passage omitted]

Brothers, Libya, for instance, does not amount even to a city in Europe. These four million are the inhaibtants of one city. You have made a problem for us about Libya—with a five-year plan, a ten-year plan, exports, imports, budgets. This is one of the myths we are living. Four million constitute the inhabitants of a city. One city is ruled by a city council, not by one thousand people's committees.

[passage omitted] All the Arab world could be one state, with Cairo as its capital; and we cease to be Egyptians, or Libyans, anything else. We will be talking as unionist Arabs. We are not talking about the current political situation. I know that one could mention the fact that there is an Israeli Embassy in Cairo. I am not talking about this. All this is a [word indistinct] truce, after all.

The Israelis themselves are aiming at Cairo. They are preparing for it day and night, and the Iraqi problem gave them enough power to let them think about Greater Israel. They were given antiballistic missiles, arms, and funds. They received sympathy, so much so that Israeli radio was saying today that they have no more room for delegations coming to express their support. See how much sympathy they are getting now, whereas they did not receive any awhile ago.

It was thought that the Arab countries recognized Israel when they heard that Egypt, the biggest Arab country, recognized it, and they came to the conclusion that the problem is over in the Middle East. They forgot about Israel. Even the Jews who are raising funds were told that the Jewish state is no longer in danger. The problem is over, as the biggest Arab country, which Israel feared, had recognized it; the problem is over. Then came Iraq's missiles and the problem they created. Naturally, this has positive aspects. It is a settled matter. [Words indistinct] but see the gains that came from this. I said previously that this is not the battle for the liberation of Palestine. Do not dream, do not get overexcited, do not be gullible and believe it is true. The result was contrary to this. Missiles, antiballistic missiles, funds, and international sympathy are coming to Israel. [passage omitted]

Again, they said the Jewish state was in danger; missiles had hit it. Anyone [words indistinct]. The stories we were telling were not caused by the Arab citizens, but by Arab rulers. How did the Patriot missiles come to the Israelis? It was because of Arab rulers. [applause] Generally, in this talk, we noted they had said that these were UN forces that had come to carry out a UN resolution. Let us see whether it was the United States or the United Nations. I am now facing a test. The international forces are present in southern Iraq, occupying a large part of Iraq. They are in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. If these are UN forces, then they have ended their mission and they must go back. If they belong to the United States, then they would have a colonial, imperialist stance, and therefore they must be confronted. [applause]

It is up to the Arabs to undertake security arrangements. And no one can lie to us and say: By God, Kuwait is still in danger; Saudi Arabia is still in danger. It is Iraq that is now in danger. Now Kuwait has become stronger than Iraq. For Kuwait, thanks to God, there is no danger to it. [passage omitted]

Iraq has now agreed to compensate Kuwait, with quite a number of billions. One of the Security Council resolutions provides for the compensation of Kuwait, and Iraq has agreed to this resolution. Now it is Kuwait that is imposing its conditions on Iraq. If the Western forces say to us: Kuwait or Saudi Arabia is in danger, and we have to stay on—then this must not be believed by the masses of the Arab nation. This is a colonial pretext. Nothing justifies their presence except colonialism, except a colonial-imperial excuse. They said to us that Iraq had 5,000 tanks, and they said: We have destroyed more than 4,000 tanks. That is it. The armored force of Iraq has ended.

Concerning the Air Force they said: We have destroyed the air bases, which are known. [Words indistinct] they have destroyed the bridges on which pedestrians walk and claimed that tanks cross on them. They themselves wanted to cross the Euphrates and found no bridges. They said: We wish we had not destroyed these bridges. [passage omitted] They have destroyed the bridges and the factories. They destroyed all government buildings in Iraq. They even hit the Justice Ministry and the Ministry for Local Administration. They hit the museums and claimed that aircraft were hidden around them. This is not true; they are hitting the Iraqi archaelogical wealth.

What then is left of Iraq? I mean, they do not have justification to say: We are staying because of the existence of danger to Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. Now there is a danger threatening Iraq. Now Kuwait could invade Iraq if it wanted, and Saudi Arabia could occupy Iraq now, because they have retained their entire military force while Iraq's military power and her civilian power have been destroyed.

We would never accept the pretext that there is fear for our friends, and therefore we are going to stay. This means that they have occupied the area, and occupation will be resisted. This must be clear.

Actually, many matters have astonished the people who used to maintain emotional feelings toward these issues.

First, what was announced as the Islamic revolution in Iraq in fact stirred the enthusiasm of many naive people. Islamic trends were formed emanating from the Islamic revolution in Iran, and everyone wished to turn his republic into an Islamic republic, Islamic republic, Islamic republic. Where is the claim that the Great Satan is America and about marching to Jerusalem and crushing the international arrogance represented by America?

Well, America has come to Iraq, on the borders of the Islamic Republic. Where is the Republican Guard, whom they claim to number one million? And where is the line of the imam? And where is the Islamic revolution while the Great Satan is on the borders of Iran, and international arrogance has reached its limits? Where is the talk of those people who stirred disturbances and humiliations in the Arab world and the Islamic world, depending on the Islamic revolution in Iran?

We used to say: No, our brothers in Iran made a national revolution; they liberated their country from American domination; they transformed it from a shah-ruled kingdom into an Iranian republic. We supported it and fought with it on the grounds of its being a national liberation revolution. The simpleminded used to say: No, this is the world Islamic revolution; it will be victorious, it will continue, it will reach America and fight against international arrogance. There is no need for us to raise our voices concerning this issue, because the facts are before us. Anyone who can see can judge by himself. This is a point, a problem which is over.

In conclusion, we stand on the side of our Muslim brothers in Iran in their national revolution, which liberated Iran from American dominance and subordination to the West. Iran used to be loyal to Zionism and South Africa and used to finance them with oil. There are no more supplies to the Zionist bloc and the racist bloc in South Africa. Iran has become an ally of the Arabs, which is a great thing, and we support them in that.

One other point: The Afghan mujahidin and even the simpleminded Libyans who are with the Afghan mujahidin, whom you called enemies of God [as heard]. These Libyans used to slaughter their Libyan brothers and ask them: Why are you not with the Afghan mujahidin? They killed those who did not express support for the Afghan mujahidin. They killed martyr Ahmad Musbah in Banghazi because he was a revolutionary who did not support the Afghan mujahidin. He liked relations between Libya and the Soviet Union, despite the fact that the Soviet Union is an enemy of the Afghan mujahidin. There were people who implored, and people who volunteered to go to heaven immediately.

We had told them: Brothers, this a fight between the opposition and a government only; it is an internal Afghan matter. We support national unity in Afghanistan; we support Islam and the progressive revolutionary regime. We want it to be nonaligned, and we want America and Russia to leave. This is the right stand. Their answer was: It is a holy war, and what you are saying is blasphemy. So we told them: This is not blasphemy. This is a progressive revolutionary power which used to believe that communism was the way; they are muslims. On the other side, there are the people who are basically against communism or against progress, but they are both our brothers in any case. If it is a holy war, how could it be financed by America and Pakistan in the days of Ziaul Haq? Their base was Pakistan in the days of Ziaul Haq, and they were given arms and trained by the Americans. [passage omitted]

At the same time, my friend Hikmatyar, who is the biggest force of the mujahidin and who has not tarnished himself with the Americans, came to me; we met and we made efforts between him and the Soviet Union and between him and Najibullah, so that they might agree with one another. (Muhammad Nabi) or (Nabi Muhammad), one of [word indistinct], one of the leaders, this one is (?Mujaddedi), this one is (Siadjay) [words indistinct]. All of them came here to me, and I met them. We tried to bring about a reconciliation between them and Russia, with Russia leaving Afghanistan to the Afghans. We are now patching up things between them and Najibullah so that they do not fight each other. If somebody dies, he would die an Afghan, and if a house is destroyed it would be an Afghan house, and Afghans would be fighting each other, but that is it: the Americans would not be interested after the Russians leave. It was a war between Americans and Russians over Afghanistan.

Some naive people were told: There is no God but God, this is jihad, this is paradise. They came to them and [words indistinct] saying to them: Look, we are fighting the Americans, with Saudi Arabia and against Iraq. The Islamic movements said: No, we are against. What Islamic movements? Those influenced by the Afghans. [Words indistinct] in the Gulf against the Afghans. The Islamic movements said: No, we are against America. And the Afghan mujahidin came and said: No, we are with the allies aginst Iraq.

Is this good? These are two very important manifestations that have influenced the naive. Parties and movements have been formed as a result of ignorance. This was exploited to settle internal scores, and in the end to arrive at power. Jihad and Islam have been exploited to arrive at power. Likewise, the Gulf problem has now been exploited to settle problems between Arab governments and oppositions.

I affirm to you that all these demonstrations you have heard about, and these events were not in fact meant to fight America or [words indistinct]. They were meant to embarass governments, and to settle scores with them only. Before this farce ended, I told you, and go back to what I had said to you: I am not convinced that there is seriousness to fight America among the Arabs at the present time. At least as far as governments and parties are concerned. Any existing parties are fighting governments, because those parties are shadow governments. Therefore all the existing official types, whether in power or in opposition, are not serious enough to fight America.

It is the ordinary citizen that does not belong to a party or [words indistinct] God or democracy, who is the one that is serious about the liberation of the Arab land, who is the one that is serious about the liberation of the Arab land, and who dislikes America as arrogance, colonialism [words indistinct]. The masses are always taken for a ride, at all times. They formed the Islamic Liberation Party, and they were told not to fight for Palestine until a caliph comes and tells us to fight. They took the Islamic Liberation Party as naive, removing it from real jihad. The Russians and the Americans fought each other in Afghanistan; they took people there as naive and told them: This is jihad, let it go ahead. Then the Gulf problem came: shadow governments and governments in power, settling scores between them, brought naive people into demonstrations, saying that these were for the Gulf, against America.

Our Iranian brothers staged a national revolution and liberated their country, but the naive people were duped. They said there was an Islamic revival and a new prophet. Look at what happened later. He [not specified] told you that he would liberate Palestine and the entire world and that he was against America. See what happened. Poor masses. Here, your own authority will be confirmed, but only through your awareness. This will not be accomplished unless the revolutionary committees movement educates the masses, even in small numbers. Therefore, there should be daily ideological and political lessons delivered by the revolutionary committees to the masses, because the task of the revolutionary committees is to make the masses know and rule themselves by themselves, knowing how to rule. Any other party does not teach the masses. In fact, it makes them ignorant. [passage omitted]

Had the masses known, we would not have proceeded in the way we did with regard to the problem of Afghanistan. Had the people who went in support of the national revolution in Iran known, they would not have gone the way they did. Had they known, their attitude toward the Gulf would not have been what it was. [cheers] At the political level and with regard to the problem of the hour, before this gathering of the members of the revolutionary committees movement I want to salute the attitude taken by Sudan and Egypt last Saturday to stop the media campaigns against each other. The fact is that the brother officials in Egypt and Sudan recognize that this is not the time for trivialities; that this is the hour of seriousness, unity, bridging the rifts, and healing Arab wounds and not the hour of exchanging abuse. For 20 years we have been exchanging abuse. What have we gained? We appreciate this responsible stance. This was preceeded by a responsible stance taken by Tunisia and Egypt. The media campaigns that Tunisia and Egypt exchanged for two or three months were stopped as brother officials in the two fraternal countries realized the abuse was futile. We would also like to salute the role played by friend Gorbachev in pressuring the West to bring about a cease-fire. We said that the decision to attack Iraq originally had come from the United Nations. The attitude taken by the Soviet Union in that regard was different from that taken by the Soviet Union in 1956. That was aggression against the United Nations. It also differs from the aggression in 1986 against Libya. To be truthful, the Soviet Union stood by Libya then. It moved its fleet in the Mediterranean against the U.S. fleet because then it was an unjust and unjustifiable American aggression. But now it could not move forces nor could it prevent what happened because the resolution was made by the United Nations against Iraq. But after the outbreak of hostilities it made efforts to bring about a cease-fire following the action taken by the coalition forces according to the UN resolution on the liberation of Kuwait. Apart from that, any action was regarded as being an aggression. We salute the role played by Egypt and personally by President Husni Mubarak. When I made concentrated and continuous contacts with him during the past couple of days, when I saw that the coalition forces had gone beyond Kuwait and entered Iraq, when I found out that the situation of the Iraqi Army had in actual fact become very difficult, and when I discovered that there was an operation of humiliation against the Iraqis and when the other side began to boast, the operation became unbearable. We began to think that, as Arabs, we should confront this and contact each other, as matters had gone beyond the red lines. We knew that they may hit us with nuclear bombs, but we had to defend our dignity. [applause] Iraq was being subjected to deliberate humiliation. Efforts continued for two days by President Husni Mubarak, who telephoned the American and Soviet presidents until they accepted the cease-fire, although they had other conditions. As a matter of fact, they moved from the UN conditions and began to talk about the conditions of the coalition—and the coalition conditions are limitless. Whenever they impose a condition on Iraq and the latter accepts, they start thinking of another condition that is more humiliating. I told him [not specified] that the conditions now are not those imposed by the United Nations but the conditions of the forces fighting, and therefore they are unacceptable. Efforts led to the cease-fire. Naturally, the cease-fire is at the expense of our dead, our dignity, our oil, and our heavy losses—it is a mockery. [passage omitted] We should benefit from our mistakes, our history, and our disputes in order to create the future. We have the capability to do so.

Finally, we return to the new international system. They should realize that it is the jamahiri system and the system of socialism. Anything else is mere empty words. [passage omitted]

In Libya, authority should be exercised by the people. We cannot go back and say that the people are incapable of establishing a government. The revolutionary march is continuing until the masses attain authority. Brothers, you should exercise authority in full. This requires resolve and effort by you, the revolutionary committees, to raise the standard of the masses so that they are aware of their own responsibilities. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan Gives Throne Day Speech 3 Mar

LD0303174691 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1324 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Speech to the nation by King Hassan II on national Throne Day in Rabat on 3 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to the one God; prayers and peace upon our master, God's prophet, and his companion.

A new world order clearly will emerge, and a change in alliances is looming on the horizon. Nobody can give a precise prediction on the geopolitical situation of tomorrow's world. We witness a new distribution of cards, the fact that compels us to ask a mutifaceted and multidimensional question:

First, what will Morocco's role be in the the new distribution?

Second, what are suitable ways and means to bolster relations among the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) states and strengthen its ties? On the other hand, it is our right to ask ourselves about the nature of AMU relations, with all various regional or international groups.

The fate of the Arab world remains our fundamental concern, either regarding internal relations among Arabs or at the international level regarding Arab world relations with all other countries.

As for Morocco's role in the new world order, it would not be right to pretend that we are not concerned about current world events, and it would be untrue to state that these events do not affect us. In any case, our fundamental determination will not be affected. Because of its geographic position and because of the various tendencies and civilization witnessed by its lengthy history, Morocco is foremost a country open toward the outside world; it has never been an introverted country and has no intention of being one. Naturally, there should be numerous repercussions because of this situation, brought about by Morocco's position as a link for various civilizations and dictated by ties we have with scores of world countries. Throughout the centuries Morocco has remained generous and hospitable. It will remain a country of forgiveness, coexistence, and peace, like any other great nation. Our country's position in the new world order is by and large subject to Morocco's preservation of these constituents and its commitment to these characteristics and distinctive features. [passage omitted]

Since its inception, the AMU has achieved significant steps full of abundant meaning of which our peoples should be proud. However, the path is still paved with thorns. We should remain vigilant and intensify the efforts to protect our achievements to consolidate and bolster our unity. Through this consolidation, our chances will be boosted and become greater vis-a-vis other regional unions. Also, our voice will be heard even more, our interests will win more understanding, and our benefits will be further protected. [passage omitted]

The tremor affecting the Arab world takes the form of an earthquake which will yield deep ramifications and will affect relations among Arab states for some time; it is impossible to define for the time being. However, the Arab world experienced numerous crises and witnessed difficult phases throughout its history. Its previous crises were clearly less serious than the one we are witnessing today. Until now, we managed to overcome the crises and problems thanks to the the genius of our peoples, from whom we derive our faith and trust. Could we then overcome the present crisis? The wound is deep; it is a fragmentation in the body of the Arab nation. Will this wound heal? Will the broken bones of the Arab body set so that the Arab nation recovers its unity and solidarity? This is not easy; however, it is not impossible or unattainable. In any case, this is dictated by the wisdom and required by the interest. We should rebuild our solidarity and unity. We should protect our identity and entity because of the positive elements and interests emerging from this restored unity. We can mention two points in this regard:

The first point is that we should avoid the creation of an axis inside the Arab world that would lead to disunity and isolate some parts of the Arab nation from the other parts.

The second point is that the Arab group, as one self-established entity, represents for the whole world a force that cannot be compared to the force represented by each state individually. Here we find ourselves forced to talk about the Arab embarrassment and the Arab wound.

Clearly, there have always been differences within the Arab nation; however, because of their nature and their relative influence on the basic directions, these differences were secondary. As for today's crisis, it has touched the nucleus and the foundation. It has cast pitch-black shadows on the future. A war broke out between a very dear fraternal Arab state and dear Arab brothers, who sought the help of a number of countries to defend themselves. [passage omitted]

Over the past days, we had opportunities to express the meaning and nature of our stand on this issue. There is no need for us today to go back to this issue. We used all out powers to denounce and condemn the war. Using the same determination and will, we stand continually alongside legitimacy and right. The events that happened throughout last year on the international level were about to lose all their significance compared to the Gulf war.

This war, which dominated everything and kept minds busy, almost made people neglect other issues. [passage omitted]

If recovering our Saharan provinces was achieved—and the issue was put to rest by history as far as we are concerned—it is still tabled for debates in international organizations. This issue will be solved definitely through a referendum of self-determination, a referendum which we expect would confirm our territorial unity. [passage omitted]

We are in continuous contact with the UN Security Council in the hope that the dossier on the Sahara will be closed once and for all through the referendum, particularly since the last aspects of the dossier are nearing completion. Following the referendum—and as soon as possible—we intend to organize the elections which circumstances compelled us to postpone. However, the time that lapsed was not wasted. On the contrary, the events and incidents witnessed during that time helped us interpret factors of our directions, from which we are able to draw the necessary conclusions. The change that has characterized our society is deep and worthy of interest. A new generation has emerged and with it emerged its characteristics and persistent demands. [passage omitted]

We strongly strive to provide a happy life for our people amid stability and dignity and to secure harmony and detente among our people. We believe conditions for achieving these aims reside in the existence of the necesary coordination between the nation and its leadership. We have the hope and the political will to achieve all that is required from us by the new Morocco in all fields, the Morocco that is emerging and growing under our eyes and which we protect by all interest and relentless efforts.

In this regard, everyone is required to give all attention and interest to the forthcoming elections. We are effortlessly striving for their results should translate the true reality of the general situation and should reflect in all sincerity the hopes and dreams of our people. [passage omitted]

We will remain as we have always been, hoping that these elections should be free and just in accordance with the true rules of democracy. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Kuwaiti Premier Visits, Discusses Gulf Situation

LD0203105591 London KUNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Manama, 2 Mar (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdullah al-Sabah arrived here this morning on a visit to the State of Bahrain.

On arrival via King Fahd Bridge this morning, he was received by the Bahraini prime minister, Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and the heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces, Shaykh Ibn-Ahmad 'Isa Al Khalifah.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah will hold talks during his visit on the latest developments on the Gulf scene after the cease-fire between the coalition and Iraqi forces and the liberation of Kuwait from the unjust Iraqi occupation. In addition, they will review the brotherly relations between the two countries.

Holds Talks With Counterpart

NC0203113891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 2 Mar (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah held a round of talks at noon today with His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister. The conferees reviewed the current situation in the region in the wake of the successful military efforts to liberate the State of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. They also discussed the proposals regarding the future outlook in the Arabian Gulf region, as part of the joint coordination among the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council in drawing the policies related to political, economic, and security aspects in the region.

The Bahraini and Kuwaiti sides examined the warm fraternal relations between the two countries during the era of rebuilding Kuwait to repair the damage caused by the Iraqi aggression.

During the session, his highness the Bahraini prime minister expressed thanks and appreciation for the visit that his highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent is paying to his second homeland, Bahrain. He also paid tribute to the tremendous efforts that Shaykh Sa'd has made from the beginning of the crisis until the liberation of Kuwait in mobilizing Arab, Islamic, and international resources to defend his country's just cause. He stressed the close and continued cooperation between Bahrain and Kuwait in all fields. [passsage omitted]

Radio Kuwait Reports Meeting

LD0203154191 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] An official session of talks was held today between the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister and the Bahraini prime minister.

They reviewed the current situation in the region in light of the military efforts to liberate Kuwait. They also discussed the ideas offered about the future prospects in the Arabian Gulf region within the context of the coordination among the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in drawing up the directions of the political, economic, and security issues in the region. They also discussed the bilateral relations during the stage of reconstruction in Kuwait which is aimed at repairing what the brutal Iraqi occupation has destroyed.

Meets With Amir 2 Mar

LD0203121191 London KUNA in Arabic 1052 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Excerpt] Manama, 2 Mar (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, has met the amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, and the heir apparent and commander in chief of Bahrain's Defence Force, Shaykh Ibn-Ahmad 'Isa Al Khalifah, here today. [passage omitted]

Addresses Kuwaitis in Bahrain

NC0203161591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Manama, 2 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and Kuwaiti prime minister, along with Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah today visited the Kuwaiti Embassy building in Bahrain.

His highness the heir apparent of Kuwait met with a number of Kuwaitis and conveyed to them the greetings of Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and his good wishes for success and good health.

Shaykh Sa'd praised the rejection of the occupation and resistance of the aggression shown by the Kuwaiti citizens inside and outside Kuwait. He saluted their steadfastness during the crisis and expressed his thanks and appreciation for the adherence of Kuwaiti citizens abroad to Kuwaiti legitimacy and efforts made by each Kuwaiti individual to explain their cause before public opinion which condemned this aggression and stood by Kuwait and its just right through the international organizations.

His Highness Sahykh Sa'd thanked all fraternal and friendly countries, their leaders and heads of state, for the efforts they made to liberate the State of Kuwait. The heir apparent congratulated the members of the Kuwaiti community in Bahrain on the liberation of Kuwait and declared that the return to Kuwait will come soon in accordance with the plan set regarding this issue.

Departs 2 Mar

NC0203162691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Manama, 2 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him left Manama this afternoon via the King Fahd causeway following a one-day visit to Bahrain. [passage omitted]

During his visit, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd held talks with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, and his highness the prime minister on the latest Gulf developments emerging in the wake of the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation. The talks also dealt with the warm fraternal bilateral ties, ways of enhancing them, as well as current Arab and international issues.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd was accompanied on his Bahrain visit by a delegation comprising Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Shaykh Jabir 'Abdallah al-Jabir al-Sabah, minister of social affairs and labor; Yahya al-Sumayt, minister of state for housing affairs; Dr. 'Ali al-Shamlan, minister of higher education; Muhammad Nasir al-Hamdan, minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs; and a number of Kuwaiti officials. His highness the heir apparent was also accompanied on his return trip to the Eastern Province [of Saudi Arabia] by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd Bin-Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy governor of the Eastern Province.

British Defense Secretary Arrives for Talks

NC0303074491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Manama, 3 Mar (WAKH)—British Defense Secretary Tom King arrived in Manama today as part of a tour of the countries in the region.

During the visit the British official will hold talks dealing with bilateral ties and developments in the Gulf after the end of military operations, the liberation of Kuwait, and the restoration of its legitimate government.

On hand to receive him at the airport were Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force [BDF]; Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Uthman Al Khalifah, BDF chief of staff; British Ambassador John Shepherd; and senior BDF officers.

Meets With Amir, Prime Minister

NC0303095691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0922 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 3 Mar (WAKH)—Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah today received British Defense Secretary Tom King and his delegation who are visiting Manama.

During the meeting, they reviewed current regional developments after the end of the military operations and the liberation of Kuwait.

His highness the amir praised Britain's role in Operation Desert Storm, which led to Kuwait's liberation and the restoration of its legitimate government. He also noted the good relations between the two friendly countries.

Views were also exchanged during the meeting on issues of concern to Bahrain and Britain. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

NC0303120791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1125 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Manama, 3 Mar (WAKH)—British Defense Secretary Tom King has stated that during their military talks with the Iraqi side today, the coalition countries will emphasize the need for Baghdad to abide by these countries' conditions, particularly with regard to the exchange of prisoners of war.

In a news conference in Manama today, King demanded that Iraq hand over the prisoners of war as soon as possible. He stressed that Baghdad's failure to implement the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war will constitute a very serious violation.

King pointed out that the issue of security in the Gulf is the responsibility of the region's countries. He declared that the British forces will return to their country as soon as possible if the objective of their presence—the liberation of Kuwait and establishment of security in the region—is fulfilled.

The British defense secretary praised the splendid success of Operation Desert Storm, asserting that the allied forces' minimal losses are proof of this success.

King praised the British pilots' courage during the air sorties they conducted and their ability to perform their missions in the best possible way. He said this performance contributed to the success of Operation Desert Storm.

He described his country's relations with the Gulf countries as historic and good.

Departs Manama 3 Mar

NC0303114591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Manama, 3 Mar (WAKH)—British Defense Secretary Tom King and his delegation left Manama today following a one-day visit to Bahrain, during which he held talks with Bahraini officials on bilateral ties and new developments in the Gulf.

He was seen off by Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force [BDF]; Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Al Khalifah, BDF chief of staff; and British Ambassador John Shepherd.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Thanks Allies for Support

LD0203141291 Riyadh SPA in English 1224 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, March 2, SPA—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparant and prime minister, has expressed appreciation for the unwavering support extended by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti people will never forget the fraternal stand of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Shaykh Sa'd said in a statement published by the Riyadh-based AL-JAZEERAH newspaper today.

Shaykh Sa'd saluted the courageous Saudi, Gulf, Arab, Muslim and friendly forces which had fought for the liberation of Kuwait. The Kuwait's liberation operation has provided a clear evidence for world's rejection of injustice and aggression, he said.

Returns to 'Homeland'

LD0403134891 London KUNA in Arabic 1328 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait 4 March KUNA—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister of Kuwait, returned to the homeland this afternoon after a seven-month absence due to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

As soon as his highness stepped down from the airplane, he prostrated himself to God on the tarmac twice in thankfulness and praise to God for delivering Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd will be holding a news conference today.

UN Representative Notes 'Missing' Citizens

LD0203020991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2325 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Excerpts] United Nations, 1 Mar (SPA)—The Kuwaiti permanent representative at the United Nations, Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, says that about 32,000 Kuwaiti citizens are regarded as missing since the ruler of Iraq invaded Kuwait on 2 August last year. In a statement to journalists, he pointed that about 8,000 Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq have been registered with the International Red Cross out of a total of 32,000 who should be repatriated. The Kuwaiti representative demands that the Iraqi regime furnish complete information about the POW's and the civilians before signing any permanent agreement on ceasefire following the liberation of Kuwait. [passage omitted] The UN representative points out that the presence of the international forces in Kuwait is necessary for some time and that they can be replaced at a later date by UN peacekeeping forces or UN observers.

Expresses Gratitude in Speech

LD0303163891 London KUNA in Arabic 1315 GMT 3 Mar 91

["Text" of speech by Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, Kuwait's permanent UN representative, at UN Security Council session on 2 March—formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Excerpts] United Nations 3, March (KUNA)—Mr. Chairman: the Kuwaiti delegation, and I personally, are pleased to see you preside over the Security Council this month. [passage omitted]

Mr. Chairman: Praise be to God for whatever happens. Praise be to God who has drawn the fate and given us victory. Praise be to God who made the right victorious and defeated the wrong. The wrong will always be defeated.

Your honorable council has voted a resolution whose complete implementation—I hope—will draw the curtains over a tragedy which was prepared, played, and directed by a regime that stemmed from aggression and lived on aggression. [passage omitted]

Your honorable council, and with it the entire international community, rejected the treacherous Iraqi aggression against my country, Kuwait, condemned it from the start, and adopted all the necessary resolutions under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter to repulse and change it.

Then followed the Arab, Islamic, and international diplomatic efforts, and Baghdad became the hub of all these mediations which all sought to clarify the extent of the gravity of the Iraqi aggression and its repercussions on world peace and security and to try to save Iraq and Kuwait and the region from the calamities of devastation—whose extent only God knows.

Yet despite all these efforts, despite the 12 resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] and despite the very clear signals given by the forces that allied with my country for implementation of the UNSC resolutions—specifically, Resolution 678 to the effect that force would be decisively used to repulse the aggressor and put an end to his violation of human laws—the only reply the Iraqi regime gave was obduracy stemming from ignorance, stubbornness stemming from arrogance, and tryanny stemming from hollowness.

As you know, the military operations began on 16 January. Saddam's policy led to the destruction of the Iraqi military and strategic infrastructure. Saddam exposed Iraq to devastation, which it did not want. Yet the obduracy, stubbornness, ignorance and arrogance persisted, while the diplomatic mediations and efforts continued in spite of the war. All were aimed at the prevention of further devastation to the region and its resources. These attempts were headed by those of the Soviet President Gorbachev and the UN secretary general. Yet despite all these good efforts, the stubbornness and obduracy continued as it had prior to the military operations.

Mr. Chairman: Now and only now, after the whole Iraqi Army has been routed, its remnants crushed, and its mechanized equipment destroyed, and the fraternal Iraqi people have started to lick their wounds and discover the gravity of what has befallen them and the enormity of their losses, only now have we received the answer, which is the only one, namely that only when the crushing danger to the president of that regime and his lackeys became imminent did the president of that regime agree to submit to the UNSC resolutions.

Mr. Chairman: It is evident from the thoughts and actions of the Iraqi president that he places his own security and that of his regime above that of the people. For this reason, he squanders the entire Iraqi people and their resources. I ask how many opportunities were wasted by the Iraqi regime—opportunities that could have saved Iraq from what has befallen it before and during the military operations and even after it was forced to withdraw. They have lost numerous opportunities which they could have used to save the blood of the innocent who were thrown into the furnace of the war. Their submission came late and consequently lives were lost and resources destroyed. The victims were the helpless Iraqi people.

Mr. Chairman: Kuwait has been liberated, thanks to the resolutions of your honorable Council and thanks to the leadership of the countries that cooperated with my country for the implementation of your council's resolutions. Legitimate authority has returned to Kuwait, represented in the person of His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and his government. It has returned to exercise its leading and cultural role in the procession of good and love.

The Kuwaiti people are now witnessing a new dawn after the pitch-black night which prevailed in our skies for seven terrible months. The radio and TV have started to relay live pictures of the torture and destruction inflicted by the unjust Iraqi regime on the Kuwaiti people. [passage omitted]

The amir, Government, and people of Kuwait will forever remain appreciative of the historic role played by your honorable council in securing and facilitating their liberation. We are grateful to the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Egypt, and Syria for their sacrifices and for their manly and proud stand by the side of right and justice for a just peace, a stand which stemmed from the ties of Islam and pan-Arabism.

Our deep gratitude and thanks go to the United States, Britain, and France for the distinguished military and political role which they played, and to the Soviet Union and China for their cooperation with your honorable council in deterring the aggression and uprooting it. We also appreciate and thank all the countries which contributed to the coalition forces against wrong and to the countries which supported us in the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations.

Starting from the resolutions of your honorable council, all these countries have created a history which will remain a point of reference for future generations. [passage omitted]

As for those whose policy did not agree with the principles of the charter and international legitimacy, they gave the aggressor the wrong signals, which made him think that through this negative stand, he could be rewarded for his aggression, and that there were indications which would allow him to obtain the fruit of resorting to force. Therefore they, to a great extent, are responsible because of their negative stand toward the aggression.

Mr. Chairman: Liberated Kuwait, its people, and its political leadership will remain faithful to their Arab and Islamic traditions; they will remain generous in their dealings, and in their foreign policy they will remain faithful to the same course drawn up by His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, which was included in his address to the UN General Assembly in its current session on 27 September 1990. [passage omitted]

Saudi Joint Forces Commander Visits Ministers

LD0103235191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 1 Mar (SPA)—His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and theater of operations, accompanied by Major General Jabir Khalid al-Sabah, deputy chief of the Kuwaiti General Staff, carried out a tour of inspection within Kuwait City. [passage omitted]

Then Staff Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz visited a number of Kuwaiti ministers to congratulate them. He visited Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, Kuwaiti minister of the interior; Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of defense; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Habib Jawhar Hayat, minister of transport; and 'Abdallah Yusuf al-Ghunaym, minister of education.

In a press interview after the visit, the commander of the joint forces and theater of operations said that he discussed with the Kuwaiti ministers the means of reorganizing the joint forces outside the Kuwaiti capitals.

Answering a question about how long the joint forces will remain in Kuwait, his highness said: "This decision depends on the political decision of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government."

His Royal Highness Staff Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and theater of operations, returned to Riyadh this evening.

Returning Ministers Work To Restore Services

LD0103233991 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2125 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Report by correspondent Muhammed al-Qahtani]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Our dear listeners. God's peace and mercy be upon you. Radio Kuwait greets you from inside liberated Kuwait. The Kuwaitis today toured the streets of the capital, rejoicing at the victory and at the routing of the forces of oppression and tyranny from the precious homeland. A huge popular procession marched today from Hotel Kuwait International and along the Arab Khalij Avenue.

A number of ministers arrived in the country and immediately upon arrival set about pursuing their work in securing services for the Kuwaiti citizens. The officers of the Ministry of the Interior have taken control of the police stations in Kuwait.

Electricity and water services are expected to be restored within the next few days, according to a programmed schedule covering the various parts of Kuwait. As for telephone services, they are now operating in some areas, but within Kuwait only. International telephone services will, God willing, be resumed within this week.

Security conditions in Kuwait are in general completely safe. The coalition forces are now in control of all areas, and have begun search operations. The blowing up of mines is continuing in the countryside, and the search for mines and explosives is also continuing in some areas. Generally the situation here in Kuwait is very safe. About 400 journalists from Arab and foreign media arrived to cover the great event. A large number of them accompanied the coalition armies in the early hours of the liberation of Kuwait.

A number of Arab and foreign journalists have toured the city of Kuwait, where they met with many Kuwaitis who expressed their pleasure at the victory and liberation. The information teams have also carried out a survey of the devastation caused by the tartars of the 20th century in Kuwait. Work is going on now in earnest to soon begin radio and television transmission from inside Kuwait, God willing.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman 'Abdallah al-'Awadi, will hold a new conference tomorrow, at which he will speak about the forthcoming stages with respect to services for the Kuwaiti citizens and the general situation in Kuwait. The security commands here are continuing their extensive meetings. Doctors, specialists, and workers in the various state departments are to report to work.

Today, Saturday, supply convoys will begin to arrive for the gas stations in Kuwait. There are some gas stations offering services to Kuwaiti citizens, though they are crowded. The great discipline and calm by the sons of Kuwait reflected a state of solidarity among the Kuwaiti citizens.

Here in Kuwait, the rejoicing is spreading everywhere. Houses are covered with Kuwait flags and those of the international coalition member countries. The Kuwaiti citizens have carried pictures of his highness the amir of Kuwait and those of his dutiful heir apparent as an expression of popular support for the political leadership, and of the loyalty that continues through history, whatever the oppressors and the Baghdad dictator tried.

We will continue to provide you with our dispatches from here, from inside Kuwait, and will broadcast a number of interviews with a number of Kuwaiti citizens until the government succeeds in restoring international communications so that the sons of Kuwait abroad can contact their sons and kinsmen inside Kuwait.

The Radio of Kuwait will carry out interviews like today's with a large number of citizens. Best greetings from Radio Kuwait. Muhammad al-Qahtani—liberated Kuwait.

Opposition Figure Shot by Unidentified Assailant

NC0103194091 Paris AFP in English 1926 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Kuwait City, March 1 (AFP)—A well-known Kuwait opposition politician was shot and wounded by an unidentified gunman here Friday, Kuwaiti opposition sources said. The sources said Hamad Al-Jaw'an, an ex-deputy of the National Assembly, was wounded in the shoulder by the attacker and had been hospitalized. No further details of the incident were immediately available.

The opposition in Kuwait has been pressing for further democracy in the country and a return to the 1962 constitution, which was scrapped by the tiny oil-rich emirate's ruler, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah in 1986. The emir has yet to return from Saudi Arabia where he fled and established an exile government after the August 2 Iraqi invasion. However he pledged in a conference in Jeddah last November to bring back democracy on his return.

Kuwait has been under martial law since Iraqi troops fled the country Monday, and the exile government says it will be three months before damage to basic services has been rectified enough to allow exiles to return.

National Guard Called to 2 Mar Meeting

LD0103233891 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2126 GMT 1 Mar 91

["Call to Kuwaiti National Guard members"—read by announcer]

[Text] Out of our desire to join the other security sectors in controlling the security conditions in the country and to serve the public interest, the director of the Military Board of the National Guard calls on all members of the National Guard—be they officers, noncommissioned officers, and men, including the retired, namely, the reserve guards who are now in Kuwait—to assemble at the al-Fatat Club at al-Khalidiyah at 0900 tomorrow.

Investment in West, Reconstruction Viewed

LD0303183191 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1635 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted including indistinct portion] As for the importance of Kuwaiti deposits in Western banks and shares in Western companies, the reconstruction of Kuwait will be expensive. The necessary funds for this operation, however, exist in the countries of the region.

If there is an economic side of this war, it is the Kuwaiti financial deposits in the bank, its shares in the companies, and its stocks in the stock exchanges, and not its oil barrels. Kuwait controls a large part of the money and shares markets in the Western and industrialized stock exchanges.

Kuwaiti investments are estimated at $18 billion. Also Kuwait has major shares in large Western companies such as McDonell-Douglas, Toshiba, Daw Kimble, Hitachi, and Nissan. Add to that the fact that Kuwait owns the largest share in huge European companies such as BP [British Petroleum], not to mention that Kuwait controls the European chemical and paper industries. In Canada the Kuwaiti investments are estimated at $4 billion, most of which are in stocks and property.

The coalition countries are fighting, even partially, for protecting their money markets from the disasters which President Saddam Husayn could have caused if he sold the Kuwaiti share in Western companies. The majority of the Kuwaiti investments are long-term ones; selling them suddenly could cause a reduction in the value of the shares.

Moreover, allowing Iraq to control the Kuwaiti money and property would have allowed it to form a huge military force and helped it to develop its nuclear weapons.

The coalition, however, countries will benefit more after the war. The reconstruction of Kuwait will cost $60 billion. A number of American and British companies have already started to contract the reconstruction deals. So far 170 contracts, whose total value is $700 million, have been signed and they should be implemented within 30 days following the liberation of Kuwait.

Dear listeners, this was a report about the Kuwaiti Development Fund from Bonn.

Iraqi 'Spies' Arrested, Tell of Forming Cells

LD0203074991 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 0635 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Dear listeners: Three professional spies working for the Saddam regime have confessed about the subversive intentions of the ruler of Iraq and the fact that he targetted Kuwait's security and independence two years before the crime of the invasion was committed on 2 August. The three spies, who were recently captured by the Kuwaiti resistance, revealed the dangerous plan that the Iraqi president intended to extensively carry out within his premeditated intentions some years ago. The spies' role was to collect information about the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, the coast guard, the forces of the national guard, the civil and military police, and the traffic police in an aim to find elements who would support them and help to forge drivers licences and to concentrate on forming secret cells of agents from among some Arab nationals who would help them to carry out their vile intentions. Since their arrival in Baghdad [as heard], their role concentrated on the preparation of statistics abut the Kuwaiti population and the resident Arab nationals and to classify various nationalities with the help of some elements in the [Kuwaiti] passport authority. They delivered the lists during special trips they made to Baghdad to receive new orders. The three spies were able to photograph vital establishments—the desalination plants, oil refineries, sea harbors, and the Ministry of Defense—and to infiltrate strategic areas—especially military regions. They were also able to infiltrate the decisionmaking centers and gather information about important personalities, including senior members of the government and ministers. They gathered information on the residences of these people to facilitate their arrest when waves of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait began to arrive on the morning of 2 August.

Sources of the Kuwaiti resistance say that the three spies were able to totally master the Kuwaiti dialect. During the preliminary investigation, it has been proved that they are totally aware of the situation of the Kuwaiti society and its life, which facilitated for them the formation of the secret cells to help them gather information.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Kuwaiti Amir 2 Mar

LD0203144391 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Excerpts] His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of fraternal Kuwait, arrived this afternoon in Riyadh. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received his highness at King Khalid International Airport. [passage omitted]

After a brief rest in the Royal Hall, the custodian of the two holy mosques accompanied his brother, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, to the residence prepared for him.

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, offered a luncheon banquet in honor of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah left Riyadh today. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, saw him off at the King Khalid International Airport. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Bin-Jabir al-Sabah left al-Ta'if earlier today. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Amir Arrives in Al-Ta'if

LD0203165691 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Excerpt] al-Ta'if, 2 Mar (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait, arrived in al-Ta'if this evening from Riyadh. [passage omitted]

Official Rebuts Algerian Minister's Oil Comments

LD0303200691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] In a statement published by the MES [expansion unknown] petroleum newspaper, Algerian Minister of Mines Sadek Boussena said that the Gulf countries should show their ability to follow an independent oil policy in spite of the emergence of a new balance of power in the region. To explain what he meant by this, the Algerian minister added that the oil policy of the United States would constitute a principal factor in determining international oil prices.

The minister added: OPEC is an economic organization which serves the mutual interests of its members; however, if anyone wanted to change its role and make it a tool for serving the interests of quarters other than its members, then each one of us should reconsider his position.

A responsible source at the Saudi Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources commented: If what was attributed to the Algerian minister is true and expresses the opinion of his country, then his country's opinion does not affect the reality of the policy of the OPEC countries. If he was talking as the current chairman of OPEC, however, then he is not authorized to impose his country's opinion and its incorrect propaganda on the other countries, and he has no authority to talk in the name of OPEC and attack any member of the organization.

The source added: The oil policy of the Gulf countries stems from their sovereignty and interests. What the Algerian minister has said does not represent the reality within or outside of OPEC.

'Official Source' Denies 'Arafat Ouster Sought

LD0303225191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2218 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Mar 91 (SPA)—In reply to the contents of the analysis by the REUTER agency datelined Cairo that "the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wants to replace Yasir 'Arafat by another who will assume the organization's chairmanship and that the Kingdom has cut off financial assistance to the organization", and in reply to the report transmitted by the French news agency which quoted the deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council Salim al-Za'nun as saying that the Kingdom has promised to resume its financial assistance to the PLO and that this pledge was given to an envoy of the organization who recently visited Riyadh and whose name has not been disclosed, an official source has said that the analysis and the report referred to above are absolutely without foundation.

The source added: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has shouldered the burden of the Palestinian issue ever since it started and contributed to the supporting of the Palestinian issue by every means and at various levels, does not today need guidance from anyone to tell it what its duty is vis-a-vis the question of the fraternal Palestinian people which the Kingdom gives every attention and care.

Envoy Thanks Bush for Kuwait Liberation Stance

LD0103234391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2252 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Washington, 1 Mar (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, ambassador to Washington of the custodian of the two holy mosques, today visited His Excellency George Bush, the U.S. President, during which he offered Saudi Arabia's thanks for the supportive stances adopted by the United States of America for the liberation of Kuwait.

His royal highness also expressed to President Bush the appreciation of Saudi Arabia, led by the custodian of the two holy mosques, for the results that have stemmed from recent events, and which consolidate the opportunities for security, stability, and peace in the Arab Gulf region.

Journalists Briefed by Saudi Military Command

LD0203200891 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Telvision Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. On the occasion of the liberation of the fraternal State of Kuwait and a cessation of offensive actions, the commander of the joint forces and theater of operations issued orders halting the issue of military communiques and confining the presentation of briefs to whenever the Command of the Joint Forces has information concerning the citizens and residents. We are pleased now to summarize for you the events of the past 24 hours.

After the division of the city of Kuwait into three sectors to facilitate the operation of clearing it in approximately three days, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia received from the Kuwaiti Government a request to clear the coastline. The Saudi forces have started doing this.

In accordance with the plan to divide Kuwait into various areas, the clearing of which will be assumed by units from the joint forces, the Egyptian forces present in Kuwait started taking positions at 'Ali Salim base, and the Syrian forces are carrying out patrol actions to safeguard security along the road between al Raqi' and al Jahrah inside Kuwait.

At 0730 [0430 GMT] this morning a large Iraqi force tried to withdraw north on the road between Basra and al-Nasiriyah with a number of tanks, frog missile launchers, and heavy cannon. Intercepted by the U.S. 1st Brigade, it fired an RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] and opened direct fire, to which the U.S. brigade responded. This resulted in the destruction of a large number of tanks and vehicles, and the capture of all the aggressor's men in that force.

While a force from the U.S. 82d Airborne Division was clearing and securing al-Tulayl Airport yesterday evening, an Iraqi officer was captured. He reported that he was the commander of the Iraqi battalion stationed near the airport, and that the U.S. forces had communicated with them over loudspeakers, which led to the surrender of 1000 soldiers from the elements of the aggressor forces to the U.S. forces.

During the operation of clearing al-Wafrah by a U.S. Marines' force, exchange of fire took place with some of the aggressors' soldiers who were there. No losses resulted from that, as they were put under control.

At 1450 yesterday afternoon, a mine exploded near a light armored troop carrier. This resulted in the killing of a U.S. soldier and the wounding of three others.

Yesterday a U.S. helicopter crashed near the Tapline pipeline. The incident resulted in five dead and one wounded.

The U.S. forces found one of their helicopters which has been missing for four days. It was discovered that four died and three wounded of those who were in it.

On the occasion of the liberation of the fraternal State of Kuwait from the hands of injustice and aggression, the linkage between the Kuwaiti Armed Fores and the Kuwaiti legitimate government has been resumed, after these forces participated in the joint forces under the command of his royal highness the commander of the joint forces and theater of operations, Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Communique No 42 Reports Iraqi Bus Incident

LD0103220591 Riyadh Saudi Arabia Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Communique No. 42 issued by the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations Command, presented by Colonel Ahmad al-Rubay'an at a news conference in Riyadh on 1 March; includes questions from unidentified reporters—recorded]

[Excerpts] [al-Rubay'an] [passage omitted] The joint forces are carrying out a number of sorties, which include patrols, aerial reconaissance, and early warning operations, to monitor any moves by the aggressor and respond to them immediately, should the need arise. The number of sorties since the start of Operation Desert Storm has reached more than 110,573, of which the share of our Air Force was more than 7,061.

The marines of the Saudi Royal Navy have completed during the last 24 hours the securing of al-Ahmadi port, al-Shu'aybah, Ra's al-Qulay'ah, Khawr 'Abd Allah, al-Zawb, and al-Khiran, and are now on their way to cleaning up al Shuwaykh and the adjoining coasts. After the division of Kuwait into various sectors, and the allocation of those sectors to units of the multinational forces, units of the joint forces continued to cleanse and secure the city of Kuwait and other towns and suburbs, in order to equip them and prepare them for secure life, God willing.

The joint naval force continues the operation of minesweeping in the Arab Gulf waters, where 11 minesweepers work around the clock: two Saudi, four American, and five British.

In view of the existence of a number of minefields left by the aggressor inside Kuwait, to preserve the lives of civilians, and upon the instructions of his excellency the Kuwaiti minister of the interior, his royal highness the minister of the interior has ordered all the commands, sectors, and border centers to prevent the Kuwaiti brothers or others from heading for sister Kuwait, barring the special permission of his excellency the Kuwaiti minister of the interior.

The Interior Ministry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia yesterday issued orders to the forces of the border guards to take their basic positions in all the border passageways in the north of the Kingdom.

At 0200 today at one of the U.S. checkpoints on road number eight heading for Baghdad, U.S. forces halted two buses and a truck carrying Iraqi soldiers on their way to Baghdad, and soldiers were disembarked from the first bus. The Iraqi soldiers in the second bus refused to hand over their weapons and opened fire at the U.S. forces. The U.S. forces returned the fire, killing six Iraqis and wounding six others. The remaining soldiers were taken prisoner. None of the American soldiers were wounded.

Before we start with the questions, I would like to draw the attention of the brothers to the fact that, as a result of the scarcity of events in the theater of operations, thanks be to God, we may not be able to issue a military communique on a daily basis. Such communiques will be issued at the instructions of his excellency the commander, when there is information which the command sees fit to convey to reporters and citizens. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Have the pockets of Iraqi resistance, which were still in Kuwait as of yesterday, been dealt with? Are they finished?

[Al-Rubay'an] We cannot say that they have finished. Most of the resistance, such as the incident of the two buses and some incidents inside the city of Kuwait, are the result of loss of communication between the forces and their commands. Due to their lack of communication equipment, some of the Iraqi forces are still unaware of the situation. They believe that the Iraqi forces were still in control of Kuwait. Hence they put up resistance from this premise. God willing, dealing with these pockets of resistance will very soon come to an end. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Colonel Ahmad. Was there any violation of the cease-fire in the past 24 hours? Another question: You have stated that some of Kuwait's ports have been cleared; what about King Sa'ud port? Have the fields at the port been blown up by the aggressors?

[Al-Rubay'an] You mean oilfields? With regard to the violation of the cease-fire, such a thing happened yesterday. There was artillery fire from one of the units, which is believed as well to be unaware of the cease-fire agreement. Such violations are expected. But the coalition forces deal with them as incidents that do not constitute elements that demand the resumption of the offensive. This is because the officer ordering the firing might not be aware of the cessation of offensive operations.

As to King Sa'ud port, it was announced yesterday that a marine force had cleared it.

As to the oilfields, most of the oilfields in Kuwait have been set on fire, but I cannot specify which oilfields. [passage omitted]

Further on Bus Clash

NC0103180291 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, March 1 (AFP)—Six Iraqis in a bus were killed and six wounded in an exchange of gunfire with U.S. troops at a checkpoint early Friday on the second day of a ceasefire in the Gulf war, a Saudi military spokesman said.

U.S. Marine Brigadier General Richard Neal said that soldiers from the 24th infantry division manning a checkpoint stopped for questioning two buses that were heading west before returning home north.

Gunfire erupted from the second bus, and the U.S. soldiers returned the fire, destroying the vehicle, he said. He gave no casualties, saying only that nine Iraqi prisoners were taken.

But Saudi spokesman Colonel Ahmad al-Rubay'an said that six Iraqis were killed and six wounded in the incident. There were no reports of casualties among the U.S. troops.

Commander Reviews Success of Talks With Iraq

LD0303150891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1414 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Commanders of the joint forces conferred today, with an Iraqi military delegation in a tent in a military base near the Iraqi city of Safwan.

At this meeting, the joint forces were represented by Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the Joint forces and theater of Operations; and General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the Arabian Gulf region.

The Iraqi regime was represented by two military officials whose names have not been revealed. [passage omitted]

The commander of the Joint Forces and theater of Operations, Staff Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, described the talks as "taking place on a great historic day." He expressed his hopes that peace will prevail in the region and everywhere in the world. His Royal Highness said: "The general situation is good. We have obtained answers to all the questions we asked the Iraqis."

Yemen

Government Demands 'Withdrawal' of Allied Force

*EA0303211491 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 3 Mar 91*

[Text] Today, the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers held a joint meeting under the chairmanship of Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. Those participating in the meeting discussed the latest developments in the region.

At the meeting, the councils reviewed our country's stand and the efforts it made following the outbreak of the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait, based on its firm adherence to the illegality of occupying the territory of another, the inadmissibility of violating sovereignty and independence, and the solving of problems by resorting to force. In accordance with these principles, our country spared no efforts to work for attaining a peaceful solution to the crisis, within the Arab framework and far from any foreign intereference, out of its concern not to escalate and complicate the situation and out of concern for the higher Arab interests and the interests of the countries in the region.

The meeting stressed that today, now that the fraternal State of Kuwait has regained its sovereignty within its territory—and this is what the Yemeni Republic has demanded and striven for since 2 August, in keeping with the principle of the inadmissibility of occupying the territory of others by force—the Yemeni Republic now demands a speedy withdrawal of the allied forces currently present in parts of the territory of the fraternal Iraqi Republic. This illegal presence represents a flagrant disregard by the countries of the alliance of the goals laid down by the UN Security Council resolutions relevant to the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait.

In this regard, the meeting expressed the solidarity of our country's leadership, government, and people with the fraternal Iraqi people concerning what they have been subjected to in the way of aggression and destruction at the hands of the allied forces. The meeting stressed our country's stand on the side of the Iraqi people and its support for them to enable them to overcome the effects of the aggression and the destruction which had befallen them.

The meeting also stressed the need for the forces of the allied countries to speed up their withdrawal from the region following the elimination of the reasons for which they had come, so as to enable all states of the region to arrange matters relevant to their security affairs and define the parameters of their future cooperation. This will ensure the preservation of their security, independence, and sovereignty over their territories, with due attention to the fact that any security arrangements in the region are a matter of concern to the states and peoples of the region.

The meeting's participants pointed out that, on the basis of full adherence to international law and the need for a firm and strict commitment to the resolutions of the international community, the time is now ripe for the international community to undertake its historic role and responsibilities in applying the principle of international law to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which has been and still is the principal source of all tension, insecurity, and instability in the Arab region as a whole.

The meeting's participants agreed that the restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Arab Palestinian people—including their right to self-determination under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO, and the implementation of the Security Council resolutions relevant to the Arab-Israeli conflict issued long ago—had become a stern test for the international community and the only gauge for the credibility of the commitment of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The meeting's participants stressed our country's interest in performing its national duty and adhering to its pan-Arab commitment through continuing earnest and sincere work for the restoration of the cohesiveness of the Arab nation, starting with the healing of wounds, rising above the tragedies and ending with the building of bridges of trust and understanding on the basis of mutual respect, as well as noninterference in internal affairs and respect for sovereignty and independence.

The meeting's participants stressed that the first and final aim of our country's moves at the Arab and international levels during the crisis had been to strive for the restoration of cordiality, amicable relations, harmony, and understanding between the Arab countries so as to strengthen Arab solidarity and achieve security, peace, and prosperity for all.

'Gift' of Medicine, Baby Milk Leaves for Iraq

*EA0103210891 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 1 Mar 91*

[Text] This morning a Yemeni plane left for the fraternal Iraqi Republic carrying 29 metric tons of baby milk and medicines in addition to 1 metric ton of blood, presented as a gift from the Yemeni people to their brothers in fraternal Iraq who have been subjected to barbarous and brutal attacks by the United States and its allies.

It is worth mentioning that this is the second plane leaving for Baghdad carrying medicines, food, and a quantity of blood donated by the Yemeni citizens for their brothers in Arab Muslim Iraq.

Government Accepts UNSC Resolution 686

NC0303215591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2114 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today sent a message to the UN Security Council [UNSC] president and the UN secretary general. The text follows:

Your Excellency: I have the honor to inform you that the Iraqi Government has taken note of the text of UN Security Council Resolution 686 of 1991 and that it accepts meeting its obligations in accordance with the said resolution. We hope that the Security Council will deal with our meeting of these obligations, which we will do sincerely and as soon as possible, in an objective and honorable manner in line with the provisions of international law and the rules of justice and fair play. Your Excellency and members of the Security Council are fully aware of the manner in which the U.S. forces and the forces joining them in the military operations against Iraq implemented Security Council Resolution 678 of 1990 and the resulting huge losses to Iraq's infrastructure; to its economic, (?civilian), cultural, and religious property; and to the basic services it provides to citizens, such as electricity, water, telephones, transportation, fuel, and other essential needs for human life.

Despite all these facts, Resolution 686 of 1991 ignored this suffering by the Iraqi people and only demanded that Iraq meet a long series of commitments.

A number of the Security Council members are aware of this fact, which prompted one of them, Cuba, to vote against the resolution, while three countries, India, Yemen, and the PRC—which is a permanent member state—abstained.

While recording these facts for history and before those who have conscience of the Council's members, the international organization, and world public opinion, our acceptance to meet our obligations in accordance with this resolution stems from our concern to remove the pretexts which might be used by some to continue the aggression against Iraq and do more harm to its people.

Iraq hopes that the Security Council would work to issue a resolution declaring a formal cease-fire, cessation of all land, air, and sea military operations, and the immediate withdrawal of the foreign military forces which are present without any excuse in some areas in Iraq. Iraq also hopes that the Council will, as soon as possible, consider the bases on which Resolutions 661, 665, and 670 of 1990 were adopted. These bases no longer exist; therefore, these resolutions have become invalid.

Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister
[Dated] Baghdad, 3 March

RCC Demobilizes Troops Born 1953 Through 1956

NC0203160191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1541 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Unscheduled statement issued by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council on 2 March]

[Text] Dear brothers, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued the following decision:

In light of the positive direction taken by current developments in the political situation thus far; because the cease-fire has been established; and because arrangements are proceeding normally to hold a meeting between two military delegations representing the two parties which fought each other to put cease-fire arrangements and other points on the agenda, the RCC has decided to demobilize those born in the following years: 1953, 1954, 1955, and 1956.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the RCC
[Dated] 14 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 2 March 1991

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that those concerned at the Ministry of Defense are preparing all that is needed to consider the possible demobilization of other groups of military personnel in addition to those announced right now, in light of subsequent developments in the political and military situation.

Saddam Meets Ministers on Restoration of Utilities

NC0203192191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1904 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] This evening His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn met with Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization; and Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini, Army assistant chief of staff, to be briefed on the measures that have been accomplished in the field of restoring television transmission, electricity, and fuel, as well as the demobilization of those born in certain years as decided by the Revolution Command Council.

Chairs RCC, Ba'th Command Meeting

NC0303183091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1817 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Ba'th Party Regional Command during which the latest developments of the political situation were reviewed and the reports on the implementation of the leader president's directives to restore basic services to the citizens were perused.

Visits Martyr's Monument 3 Mar

NC0303201991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has visited the Martyr's Monument and read Surat al-Fatihah [the opening chapter of the Koran] to invoke the mercy of God on the souls of our righteous martyrs. His excellency the president performed the sunset prayers at the Martyr's Monument.

His excellency the president also visited the tomb of the martyr Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, the late defense minister, and read Surat al-Fatihah at his tomb to invoke the mercy of God on his chaste soul.

Tours Baghdad Suburbs 3 Mar

NC0403103191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Mar 91 pp 1, 15

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi in Baghdad]

[Excerpts] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, accompanied by two of his private bodyguards, was seen touring some of Baghdad's suburbs and streets yesterday to reassure himself about the conditions of families and residential areas and to follow up the citizens' resumption of normal life.

Normalcy has returned to Baghdad following unprecedentedly harsh, bestial raids. [passage omitted]

On the political level, SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has contacted some foreign ministers of Arab states involved in working for an Arab solution, during which the latest developments were discussed.

Delegation To Meet Allied Counterparts 3 Mar

NC0203101391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1003 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the Iraqi delegation to the meeting with the allied delegation headed by the U.S. side has been formed and that it will meet with the allied delegation before noon tomorrow, Sunday, 3 March, to agree on cease-fire arrangements and other points on the agenda.

Baghdad Said Ready for POW Trade 'Immediately'

NC0203194291 Paris AFP in English 1932 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Geneva, March 2 (AFP)—Iraq has announced its intention to carry out prisoner exchanges with the allies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Saturday.

The head of the ICRC delegation in Baghdad met with the head of the legal department of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, who told him that Iraq "is ready to liberate and to exchange all prisoners of war (POW) ... immediately on terms of reciprocity," said the spokesman.

The development had initially been announced by a British government spokesman in London, who said that Iraqi authorities would present the proposal during Sunday's scheduled ceasefire meeting with U.S. military commanders.

The Red Cross spokesman welcomed the Iraqi move as the first official response from Baghdad on the issue, but noted that condition of reciprocity contravened the Geneva conventions, which say that POW's are not to be used for bargaining.

Ten POW's Reported Released 4 Mar

NC0403130191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1207 GMT 4 Mar 91

[From the "the News and Views" program]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, at a time when reports and press views have been unanimous that Iraq has expressed its good will to end the so-called Arab Gulf crisis, [words indistinct] Muhammad Sa'id Sahhar, minister of state for foreign affairs, last night summoned the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross mission in Baghdad and informed him that Iraq has decided to release 10 coalition forces prisoners in line with the positive spirit that dominated the talks between the Iraqi military delegation and the military delegation of the coalition forces.

Among the prisoners which Iraq has decided to release are six Americans, including female U.S. soldier Melissa Nealy, three British prisoners, and one Italian prisoner.

Allied POW's Said 'in Good Health'

LD0103210891 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] With regard to the prisoners of war taken in the conflict between Iraq and the coalition forces, the Italian Red Cross has been informed that all the prisoners of war held by Iraq are in good health. The Italian Red Cross obtained this information from the head of the Algerian Red Crescent who has returned from Iraq.

Report on POW's Health Unconfirmed

AU0203145891 Paris AFP in English 2317 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Rome, March 2 (AFP) — All the allied prisoners of war being held by Iraq are in good health, Italian Defence Minister Virgilio Rignoni said here Friday [1 March], quoting the Algerian Red Crescent Society.

Mr. Rognoni said however that the report "still has to be confirmed."

He said the Italian Red Cross Society had been told of the prisoners' condition by its Algerian counterpart, members of which had just returned from a visit to Baghdad.

Mr. Rognoni added that military talks on Saturday between allied and Iraqi officials should bring new information on the question.

The alliance has received confirmation that 11 pilots are being held as prisoners of war by Iraq.

Early in the conflict there was concern that Iraq might be implementing a threat to move them to strategic sites, where they could be exposed to allied bombing raids.

RCC 'Source' on Safeguarding Nation's Reputation

NC0203180491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. A responsible source at the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has stated the following:

The past few days were, in the minds of the valiant Iraqis, days of significance and consequence in terms of jihad and sacrifice. As these days were fraught with the meanings of jihad, serious sacrifices in life and property have been made. Iraqis know that the correct law for life, when circumstances allow, is peace based on justice, fairness, and the principles safeguarding dignity, sovereignty, and national and pan-Arab rights. The Iraqis were genuinely elated [farahan ghamiran] when the cease-fire took place, for they have acquitted themselves well in battle and thus asserted their human, national, and pan-Arab rights.

The festivities marking the cease-fire have been accompanied by some firing in the air in expression of the delight felt on this occasion in all parts of Iraq. This is understandable when it takes place on a normal scale, appreciating the safety and security regulations, and for a short time. However, as this phenomenon has exceeded its limits, it should be seen as containing certain harmful elements that contradict all the national and humane values. Furthermore, the agents of Zionism and imperialism may exploit this phenomenon to cause harm to Iraq and its reputation.

Therefore, it has been firmly decided that the firing of bullets, which is against the law when it happens under the current circumstances, must be viewed as harmful to Iraq under the circumstances of war. The official authorities have been given orders to take stringent measures against anyone violating these instructions, so as to safeguard the reputation of Iraq and its civilized course and protect the lives of the citizens who have been harmed by this irresponsible behavior.

We call on our citizens and all honorable and vigilant Iraqis to denounce this phenomenon and to cooperate with the concerned authorities to apply the law. God is great.

RCC Decree Pardons Deserters, Absentees 4 Mar

NC0403112191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Mar 91

["Text" of Revolution Command Council Decree dated 4 March—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Decree:

In view of the disruption of bridges and roads under the circumstances of the war—which the infidels and unjust ones imposed on Iraq—and in view of administrative and transportational difficulties, some have failed to respond to the call for compulsory service and reserve service. Because some bridges have been repaired and some roads have become passable, to provide the requirements of proving sincere patriotism for everyone and based on the provisions of Clause A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council has decided the following:

1. Deserters and absentees shall be pardoned from the crime of desertion or absenteeism from military service, provided they join their divisions and army corps within seven days, effective the date of the announcement of this decree.
2. Competent ministers shall be tasked with the implementation of the provisions of this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council
[Dated] 16 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 4 March 1991

Defense Ministry Provides Corps' Location Details

NC0403115791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 MAR 91

[Iraqi Defense Ministry statement—read by announcer]

[Text] In accordance with the Revolution Command Council decree dated 4 March 1991, pardoning deserters and absentees from military service; and because some corps and divisions have moved from the areas known by the deserters and absentees; and in order to facilitate their rejoining their corps, divisions, and formations, we announce the following location of our corps deployment:

1st Corps in Wasit Governorate; 2d Corps in al-Basrah Governorate; 3d Corps in al-Basrah Governorate; 4th Corps in Maysan Governorate; 5th Corps in Irbil Governorate; 6th Corps in Maysan Governorate; 7th Corps in al-Basrah Governorate; the Gulf Operations Command in al-Basrah Governorate; the Jihad Operations Command in Karbala' Governorate; Republican Guard in al-Basrah Governorate; and the Border Forces Command in al-Ta'mim Governorate.

'Hostile' Planes Over Baghdad 'Terrorize' Citizens

NC0403094191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0927 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Hostile aircraft three times this morning carried out deliberate and fabricated air violations during which they broke the sound barrier over Baghdad and the governorates.

The spokesman said: The aim of these provocative operations is to terrorize the citizens. These operations conflict with the concept of the cessation of war and the UN Security Council resolution.

'Aziz Protests to UN

NC0403175191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1714 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today sent a message to the president of the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general in which he informed these officials that U.S. planes, since yesterday and up to the moment of writing that message, have deliberately broken the sound barrier over Baghdad four times and committed the same act in other governorates. Here is the text of the foreign minister's message:

Your Excellency, I wish to inform you that U.S. planes, since yesterday and up to the moment of writing this message, have deliberately broken the sound barrier over Baghdad four times and committed similar acts in other governorates.

Your Excellency, you may be well aware of what this means to the civilian population, particularly children, due to the loud booms caused in these circumstances as well as the accompanying vibration of buildings and houses.

The U.S. forces also, at 2155 yesterday, local time, 2 March [as heard] landed airborne troops in six helicopters in the area near the 160-km marker on the Baghdad-Amman road. This area is very far from the theater of operations.

These two actions contradict the basis and principles agreed upon in the military meeting which took place in Safwan yesterday, 2 March 1991 [as heard]. These actions constitute flagrant and unjustified provocations. While denouncing these actions, the Iraqi government registers its strong protest against them and calls on you at the same time to put an end to them.

Please accept my greatest respect.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Iraqi Republic
[Dated] Baghdad, 4 March

Embassy Denies Saddam To Resign, Seek Asylum

AU0203162691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1559 GMT 2 Mar 91

["Iraq Embassy Denies"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] The Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Bucharest issued a communique denying the news according to which President Saddam Husayn would have resigned and asked Algeria to grant him political asylum.

India Reportedly Rejects Saddam Asylum Request

OW0403032391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0259 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—An Indian newspaper reported that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn sought political asylum in India last month but was rejected, according to the Soviet TASS news agency Sunday.

TASS, monitored in Tokyo, said the SUNDAY OBSERVER, quoting sources in the Indian Cabinet Secretariat, reported that Husayn's brother Barzan Husayn al-Tikriti, head of the Iraqi Secret Service, contacted Indian Commerce Minister Subramaniam Swamy on the matter.

Swamy was going to refuse the request in an expected meeting with Husayn al-Tikriti in the Libyan capital of Tripoli on February 18, during the minister's visit to discuss oil product supplies, the newspaper said.

The Libyan trip was postponed so Swamy informed Husayn's brother by telephone that India could not do such a favor for the Iraqi president.

India also refused an Iraqi request on February 22 for an intended visit by Husayn's wife, saying the time was not very opportune, the paper said.

'Phased Restoration' of Electricity Planned

NC0203173391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1708 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that arrangements are being energetically and exceptionally made to restore electrical services and lighting in Iraqi cities at the orders of the leader president.

We have learned that electrical services were actually restored in some governorates today and that these services will be restored in the other governorates in the near future. These arrangements are aimed at restoring electrical services and lighting in Baghdad—the dear and beautiful city—today or tomorrow. A phased restoration of electrical services in the entire city of Baghdad will be completed over a seven-day period. For technical reasons, the officials concerned have chosen to supply Baghdad with electrical and lighting services only at night between sunset and sunrise every day.

God is great.

Resumption of TV Broadcasts Announced

NC0303072391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0704 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] We draw the listeners' attention to the fact that Iraqi Republic television began to transmit its programs on channel 10 instead of channel 9, as of yesterday evening, Saturday, 2 March. It will continue broadcasting today's programs and the programs of the coming days from 1700 until midnight [1400-2100 GMT]. To obtain good reception of television programs, viewers are advised to use external instead of internal antennae. The external antennae must be readjusted to obtain the best picture and audio reception.

Classes To Resume at All Schools 9 Mar

NC0203163491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1518 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Statement by the Iraqi Education Ministry—date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. It has been decided to resume classes at all schools at all levels throughout the country effective the morning of Saturday, 21 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 9 March 1991. Therefore, the Edcuation Ministry urges educators and parents of students to fully comply with the following:

1. To resume classes as of the first class on the first day of the set date;
2. To start actual classes with redoubled efforts that are in line with the size of the challenge faced by our beloved Iraq;
3. To observe a full school day, to avoid wasting any of the time allocated to it, and to exert generous efforts to compensate for the classes that have been missed;
4. To help students understand lessons through performance, completion, and comprehension, and to avoid as much as possible superficial achievement, and to benefit from extracurricular activities to enhance the teaching of basic courses.
5. To allocate appropriate time for additional classes.
6. To continue remedial classes for students, particularly those in the final grades, and in other grades.

The Education Ministry would like to express the full confidence that educators are up to the responsibility of supporting great Iraq in confronting challenges under struggler President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

Greetings to the brave men who achieved victory, and greetings to the mujahidin who confronted the treacherous imperialist-Zionist-Atlanticist plot against valiant Iraq which is aimed at destroying its capability and encroaching upon its territory. Our pride will be maintained and our flags hoisted forever. Our bosoms will continue to be full of defiance for whoever wants to humiliate us. God is great.

Communist Party Issues Statement on Situation

LD0403093791 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] The Iraqi Communist Party today issued a statement which said:

The Iraqi people are facing Saddam Husayn's insistence on [word indistinct] of sisterly Kuwait, by exacting a reward that guarantees him to keep the seat of power. Otherwise, he is ready to drag our country and our people [words indistinct].

The statement called on the Armed Forces and members of the ruling party to (?topple Saddam Husayn) [words indistinct]. The statement also called for the establishment of a government of national coalition that would save the people and the homeland and protect its independence and territorial integrity.

The statement called on the United Nations and the UN Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities by implementing their resolutions to halt the war and prevent the occupation of our country, and that the various UN agencies should seriously and effectively contribute toward saving our people from this suffering.

Red Cross Working To Avert Baghdad Epidemics

LD2702193591 Bern International Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] is setting up it sanitary operations in Baghdad to help avert the risk of epidemics. The ICRC has sent water purification equipment to the Iraqi capital, and some 150 doctors from national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies have begun arriving in Iraq to supervise medical work.

Saudi, Syrian Pilots Reportedly Refused To Drop Bombs

NC0203092291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] A specialized American newspaper has disclosed that the authorities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] detained a number of crewmen of Saudi Tornados for refusing to drop their bomb loads over Iraqi targets. The weekly paper (AIRPORT TIMES) cites military sources as saying that Saudi military authorities are currently questioning six Saudi crew members detained on 13 February. It became apparent upon returning from their missions that their aircraft bomb loads were dropped in Gulf waters. The sources say that this was not the only incident of its kind. Several similar incidents took place when Syrian pilots, flying Tornado aircraft, also refused to drop bombs over Iraqi targets. The sources declared that a Saudi pilot aborted his air raid mission while still over the airport runway.

Baghdad Claims Saudis Launch Arrest Campaign

NC0203003191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2245 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] According to reliable sources, the authorities of traitor Fahd have launched a widespread campaign of arrests against Iraqi, Jordanian, and Palestinian employees of Arab companies and the Islamic Conference Organization in Jeddah. The sources add that the authorities also raided several residential quarters inhabited by poor Africans in Mecca. These Africans have expressed support for Iraq and its leader President Saddam Husayn.

Saudis Allegedly Executed for Opposing War

NC2502184891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1720 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] It has been learned from a reliable source that the authorities of the agent Fahd executed 21 military personnel and 30 civilians by firing squad at Riyadh prisons 10 days ago for opposing the aggression being launched by the United States and its allies against Iraq from the land of the sanctities.

These sources [as heard] indicated that among the military personnel executed were pilot Colonel 'Abd-al-Rahman Musa'id al-'Utaybi, Lieutenant 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad Sanad, and six other officers belonging to the al-'Utaybi family. As for the civilians executed, they were residents of the Eastern Province, the city of Riyadh, and the al-Qasim area, including professors at Riyadh University, the College of Petroleum and Mineral Resources in Dhahran, and the 'Abd-al-'Aziz University in Jeddah, as well as three employees of Aramco [Arabian-American Oil Company].

The source added that most of those executed are religious scholars, mosque imams, and intellectuals.

Cairo University Protests Said Continuing

NC0203233191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo University students renewed their demonstrations today to protest the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq. According to reports from Cairo, students shouted slogans in support of Iraq and its people under President Saddam Husayn during a major demonstration on the university campus. The students denounced the United States and the countries allied with it in the aggression against Iraq. They also denounced the role of Husni's regime, which supports this oppressive aggression. The reports say that Husni's security forces confronted the demonstrating students in an attempt to disperse them and to prevent them from coming out onto the streets.

Demonstrations are sweeping various Egyptian universities in protest at the unjust aggression against Iraq. The wave of demonstrations escalated following the martyrdom of five students from bullets fired by the Husni regime's security men.

Baghdad Radio Talks, Commentaries on Situation

'Rare Exploits' Praised

NC0103080491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0718 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] God be praised, O Iraq. Victory to you, O Iraq. A good reward will be yours in heaven, O Iraq. You have performed the acts of dignified men and confronted and buried a conspiracy which went past your borders to include the whole Arab homeland. At the same time, large and rich Arab regimes sided with the unsuccessful conspiracy, supplied it with men and money, and hired out its cheap and mercenary media to the dirty petrodollars to undermine your high morale and your rare resolve in confrontation, challenge, and construction. It was a whole chapter of rare exploits which you recorded over the past seven months of total siege.

Your people have stood up against the raids of acrimony, vileness, and hate for more than 42 days. Their homes, houses of worship, air raid shelters, schools, hospitals, and economic and civilian installations were subjected to more than 100,000 air raids. Indeed, the number of these air raids was more than double the number of raids carried out against Nazi Germany in World War II.

By this stand alone, O Iraq, the whole world will regard you with pride and dignity until the end of time.

Coalition Leaders Condemned

NC0103205491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1957 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, children of our Arab nation: Now, what do these treasonous, ruling rascals who have joined Zionism and American imperialism in launching aggression against Iraq expect? Do they expect to remain ensconced in power when they falsify the will of the nation and betray its principles and goals? What do the rulers expect when they depend on the spears of the Americans and Zionists and Atlanticists to remain in office? Do they imagine that they will get away with their capital crimes against this nation, Iraq, and Palestine, as well as against Arab principles and values?

If traitors such as Husni, Fahd, Hafiz, and others of their ilk imagine that the nation will forget their crimes and ignoble acts, they must be deluding themselves, for in the end their actions will backfire on them.

The Egyptian people cannot possibly dissassociate themselves from their Arab affiliation. Nor will they ever forget that Husni has led the Egyptian Arab soldier into the same trench as his Zionist imperialist American, British, and French enemies to do battle against his Iraqi brother. The oppression, terror, and killings practiced by the authorities of the criminal Husni to the extent of opening fire on students on and off campus mark the beginning of the end of the capital treason symbolized by Husni and his regime.

As for Syria, our people's expressions of anger in Damascus, Aleppo, Dayr al-Zur, Latakia, al-Hasaka, al-Qamishli, Hums, and Hamah have led this tyrant al-Asad to occupy cities and to make unprecedented arrests as if this would save the traitor from the anger of the Syrian people. Nor will U.S. and allied assistance help him escape from an inevitable black fate. Criminal Fahd and his clients who have desecrated Arabism and Islam by their cowardly, treasonous stands against the Arab nation and its legitimate goals will not fare any better.

Eventual Fall of U.S. Predicted

NC0203002691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2120 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Thinkers and scholars who predicted at the beginning of the century that imperialism would provide an advanced formula to secure colonial rule and hegemony should be alive today to see how imperialism mobilized its military, financial, and political resources to punish a people who rejected hegemony and chose a free and independent course for renaissance, progress, and consolidation of sovereigty. They should be alive today to see how the advocates of democracy, new civilization, and human rights have been transformed into dinosaurs who killed, burned, and destroyed a small country because it refused to be part of their plans, pacts, and security arrangments and because it refused to surrender the nation's rights to unity, progress, and liberation of its land from foreign occupation.

Throughout this century and even earlier, the nations and peoples of the world waged ferocious struggles against imperialist invasion and foreign presence. Some nations became the targets of alliances and pacts which wanted to contain them and prevent them from achieving their objectives. These nations waged wars and confrontations as a result. However, the alliance that was formed has no precedent in modern or ancient history. Never before was such a military buildup arrayed, never before did such destruction take place, and never before were human rights so violated. All this occurred under the banner of international legality.

Yes, what Iraq has been subjected to is unimaginable. However, a closer look at the dimensions of the Iraqi free decision on the regional and international levels explains to us the savagery with which the barbaric allied forces acted in burning everything. They did not start the ground war until they had ascertained that the destruction had reached vital and basic links in the fields of industry, services, communications, transport, and agriculture and that nothing worth mentioning remained among the targets of their repeated attacks. When they started their ground operations, they avoided contact with our brave Armed Forces and depended on their air superiority. Only after Iraq announced its decision to withdraw from Kuwait did they began to make contact with the withdrawing forces and to land invasion forces in the border areas so that the princes of the invasion, with George Bush foremost among them, could boast that they had triumphed in their military campaign. They wanted to give the impression that the Iraqi withdrawal was the result of military battles, but everybody knows that the invasion forces did not enter Kuwait until a day after the brave Iraqi forces had withdrawn from it.

The seven-month war, its prelude, and the imposition of the total blockade on Iraq prove to the peoples of the world and their free forces that the imperialist states and the monopolist companies which control the affairs of these states sought and continue to seek to terrorize the peoples of the Third World. U.S. imperialism, in particular, wanted to instill fear among the advanced states in Europe and Asia which compete with it economically.

We say that imperialism and hegemony will disappear. Just as the sun finally set on Great Britain, a sun which once never set on its imperial possessions, the United States will tumble and fall because of its reckless policy and its practices against the peoples of the world. Bright lights will shine in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The peoples of Europe will reject hegemony. Iraq's great steadfastness will guide the Arab nation to the road to resuming its civilizational march and to expelling the imperialist and Zionist aggressors. The results of the long struggle against the enemies will appear soon.

Outcome of 'Great Victory' Assessed

NC0203084191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0739 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Iraq has emerged from this major historic confrontation proud and united behind its inspired historic leadership, the leadership of Saddam Husayn, the mujahid. This is what fomented the anger of the enemies because when they planned to strike Iraq and end the principles, policies, and legitimate aspirations of the Arab nation and the indigent and poor peoples of the Third World, the enemies wanted to undermine Iraq, end its independent policy and pioneering aspirations, and erase the example that Iraq presented to the Arab nation and all the people of the world in terms of construction, progress, science and technology, and the power of the faithful, which can confront and check the power of the unjust.

Iraqis have triumphed in this confrontation because by their faith, sacrifices, and jihad, and thanks to the determination of their Armed Forces, they demonstrated historic pride, which will be remembered by future generations, when they confronted the most powerful and fiercest onslaught ever launched against any people in the world. Thanks to the brave Iraqis and their sincere, brave leadership, the real and ugly face of U.S. imperialism, its allies, the traitors who belong to it, and its tool of aggression, the Zionist entity, has been unmasked. Iraq has opened the door for all people to undertake measures to preserve their dignity and independence and to allow them to exploit their own wealth by themselves. This by itself is a great victory that will certainly bear fruit.

As it proceeds to a free, decent life, the world has a right to be proud of Iraq, of its mujahidin people, of its outstanding leader Saddam Husayn and his brave army, realizing the significance of Iraq's logic, genuine line, and principled stand in the face of the diehards of Zionism, U.S. imperialism, and the forces of aggression.

This is the preliminary result which has deep future dimensions, which Iraq's principled achievements have realized for the Arab nation, the Muslims, and the afflicted peoples of the world.

Nation To Depend on 'Spirit' To Rebuild

NC0203094791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0708 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Life and the Spirit of the Future," AL-JUMHURIYAH today says that the spirit of steadfastness, defiance, and victory that fills the hearts of the sons of great Iraq, whose significance has been enhanced by several missions of reconstruction and constant defense of the pillars of renaissance and progress, was a direct target of the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies. This is particularly so after millions of Iraqis wrote outstanding chapters through this spirit, which rests on a deep belief in the principles of the great 17-30 July revolution and on the objectives of the national struggle for liberation that in turn arises from a deep and genuine belief in Iraq's cultural history and the glorious Arab history.

This spirit has always been marked by dashing and daring in bold pursuit and defense of righteousness. It constitutes an undepletable source of high national readiness for sacrifice and dedication. Struggler leader President Saddam Husayn is a great symbol of the Iraqi and Arab spirit of jihad, continuously working to strengthen and bolster resolve. This further increased the magnitude of the imperialist-Zionist spite against great Iraq, its leader, and its revolutionary march for liberation. This became particularly clear after these forces of malignancy and aggression, as well as the agents, traitors, and hypocritical and defeatist Arabs siding with them realized the results achieved inside Iraq and in a large area of the Arab world in accelerating the spread of the spirit of jihad to become an Arab and Islamic awakening which the alliance of enemies has long feared and which has been the cause of its concern and hysteria.

No matter what the enemies assemble in terms of means and capabilities for combat and propaganda, they cannot succeed in achieving their sick desires and [word indistinct] dreams against an Iraq whose noble sons maintain and nourish such a spirit. The great duel in the mother of battles has exposed some of the previously hidden ill will and designs of the imperialist quarters as well as the long-term intentions and desires of the Zionist powers. Foremost among these desires are their evil and malicious intentions, ambitions, and designs against anything that is genuinely Iraqi or Arab without exception and without differentiating between the categories or positions of the Iraqis or the nature of the tasks they are assigned to do.

With this long series of intentions, ambitions, and designs, which God Almighty and the Iraqis' will, boldness, and spirit of steadfastness in their hearts full of faith have exposed clearly and unequivocably once and for all to the whole world, it would not be reasonable for such aggressive quarters and evil Zionist powers to be more interested in the future of Iraq and its people than the Iraqis themselves. It is no surprise and it could hardly be a sudden awakening of conscience on the part of purely conscienceless, immoral, and evil criminals who do not have an atom of sympathy toward Iraq, the Arab nation, or Islam, for these quarters and powers as well as their insignificant agents and allies to show such interest coated with black [indistinct] due to its spiteful and detestable poisonous grudges and wishes.

Therefore, the spirit of victory and each and every Iraqi's sincere ability to hold tight to it are today, as they have always been over the years, the wager that the assembly of evil and aggression thought they could win. However, this assembly knows well that it will fail to win the wager, because the Iraqis' awareness is deeper than the shallow waters of the enemies, and because this awareness based on such spirit is one of the pillars of vigorous defiance in [word indistinct], the battlefields, as well as the several other pillars.

When Iraq begins its new and renewable march for rebuilding, and when it establishes stronger causes for life, all the enemies will become as certain of their failure as all the Iraqis, honorable Arabs, good Muslims, and free people of the world will be certain that they have chosen the right way to live and that they have chosen to leave nothing to death but decayed bones.

'Motives' of 'Propagandistic War'

NC0203100591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0819 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Never has the entire world history witnessed an unjust campaign of allegations, rumors, and lies as the current campaign which is being launched by U.S. and Zionist media sounding boards, abetted by other subservient media organs.

It is no secret to anyone that these media organs had started their fierce, venomous campaign against Iraq, its people, its unequalled leadership, and its national and pan-Arab policies and principled, independent decision-making more than six years ago; that is, since the expose of Irangate, passing through their campaigns which set the stage for the imperialist-Zionist aggression against Iraq.

All this has happened just because this Arab Iraq exceeded the limits set by America and Zionism when it broke the wall erected in the face of Third World peoples with regard to the use of technology and science to set forth strong bases for progress and development, whether for military or civilian purposes. All of this has happened, also, because the historic, sincere Iraqi leadership had succeeded in devising an exemplary, free, and developed experiment which became the focus of the hopes and aspirations of the Arab nation toward liberation, awakening, unity and the establishment of an independent homeland. Therefore, the fact that Iraq is still standing tall after being subjected to a fierce, barbaric aggression which has no precedent in both ancient and modern history, has kindled more black malice against it and its leadership and what this leadership and this course of action represent for Arabs and Muslims and poor, downtrodden Third World countries.

It is from this angle that we can understand the motives of the large-scale propagandistic and psychological war which is being launched by the trumpets and sounding boards of the media of the pact of the devil, whether in Europe or America or in the arena of the Arab homeland, especially in the Arab countries which are controlled by the heads of treason, Hafiz al-Asad, Husni, Fahd, and others of their ilk.

This fierce campaign, however, will not produce the effect which Bush, the head of the Zionist-imperialist alliance, wants. This is because they are ignorant, or feign ignorance, of this intimate organic relationship which binds the people and Army in Iraq with the homeland and the leadership of the homeland. In fact, the fierceness of the media and propaganda campaign and the severity and escalation of the war of lies and fabrications is certainly evidence that the gathering of evil, crime, and aggression is frustrated because its long bloody war has not achieved all the objectives that it desired.

Iraq has remained united, sound, and unharmed. Moreover, the people of Iraq have coalesced with their army and historic leadership, and the knight of jihad, leader Saddam Husayn, has been elevated in the eyes of the Arab nation more than ever.

Thus, the poisonous spears of malice have backfired on the necks of their initiators, and Iraq, its people, sovereignty, leadership, and independent, principled, and constant course of action have all emerged unscathed. Moreover, with the help of the illustrious resolve of the glorious Iraqis, a new edifice will rise up, and strong bases will be established for the march of progress, development, and achievement.

Fahd Blamed for Destruction

NC0203205191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2007 GMT 2 Mar 91

[From "Holy Medina" program]

[Text] To our kinfolk in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]; our kinfolk in the land of heavenly messages and messengers. All masks worn by the betrayer of the two holy mosques have been cast aside. The dimensions of the plot have been exposed. The Fahd regime bears responsibility for the destruction, wreckage, and killing of innocents in Iraq. This regime has permitted the desecration of the land of sanctities and messengers. It is a regime that has allowed the Zionist and U.S. forces to attack Iraq and its women, elderly, and children. It has allowed them to destroy residential districts and cultural and service facilities. Certainly, the sons of the Arabian Peninsula will not accept acquiescence to America and will not allow a subservient, despotic regime to continue to hold its grip around their necks. Rise, revolt, and cleanse the land of the filth of the corruptive invaders and from the corruption of the betrayer of the two holy mosques.

Nation Urged To Start 'Epic' Reconstuction

NC0303151291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Now that Iraq, with its great people and its brave Armed Forces, has taken the epic challenge embodied by its legendary steadfastness and its heroic, ferocious resistance of the U.S.-led aggression by the armies of 30 states, this steadfastness and all its implications and results both in the present and the future must continue through a human interaction with life in all its fields, directions, and even its smallest details.

We should not forget any of the basic facts which give evidence to the steadfastness of our great people and our courageous armed forces. Between 17 January and the moment the cease-fire took effect, the size of the air raids and bombardment by planes, missiles, and bombs dropped on Iraq was far larger than all the bombs dropped over Germany throughout World War II. The destructive power of the missiles and bombs dropped on Iraq was 25 times stronger than that of the nuclear bomb which the United States dropped on Hiroshima. According to this analysis, which was announced by the Pentagon, the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against which our people and courageous Armed Forces stood fast, has thus dropped 25 Hiroshima-type nuclear bombs on our country. Furthermore, the aggressive states used the most sophisticated types of modern weapons in their military arsenals, particularly those of the United States, France, and Britain. The aggressive states selected their targets with extraordinary care, depending on the most sophisticated data systems in the world.

For more than six months, Iraq was subjected to the most severe and cruel economic embargo, which covered even medicine and food. Add to this the psychological war which aimed to break down our people's morale, weaken their steadfastness and challenge for the aggression, and destroy their independent nationalist will.

Meanwhile, our people continued to stand fast and challenge aggression by 30 states in a legendary manner. Our heroic Armed Forces fought gloriously and honorably in the ground battles as though they were fighting under normal circumstances. The sons of great Iraq have thus demonstrated their integrity, their [word indistinct], their capabilities, and their nationalist spirit which was far beyond imagination by all standards.

Today, we are certain that the Iraqi people will demonstrate their integrity and known patriotism this time just as they did when they stood fast in the challenge against the barbarian aggression. We are certain that they will release all their capabilities, creative energies, and struggling spirit to rebuild all the sources of life which the invaders had destroyed or delayed.

The epic of standing fast before the aggression will not take root in our lives unless the will to rebuild is revived within the hearts of the people. Life itself requires rejuvenation and development, because these two things are the foundations of the psychological and spiritual rebuilding process which unleashes the will to work collectively on the basis of cohesion and unity among the members of the society.

The Iraqi people, who have a record of glory both in the present and past and who patiently endured and fought barbarianism and neocolonialism, will set out once again to build with the determination which agrees with their nature and characteristics. The world will witness an epical reconstruction process as much as it witnessed their epical challenge and steadfastness in the face of aggression by 30 states. This reconstruction process will truly and practically embody the continued steadfastness and challenging spirit.

To heal the wounds with the speed we want, our determination should not weaken before our task to reconstruct and rejuvenate life and put it back in full swing.

The unified iron will of our people, despite all the sacrifices involved in the battle, is the only guarantee for putting Iraq on the road to reconstruction and providing it with extraordinary instruments. Only with this determination will we be able to realize the obejective of developing and renewing life.

We are certain that our great people, with their patience, endurance, faith, and creativity, will be the subject of admiration by the entire world for their epical reconstruction achievements in the days to come and for rejuvenating their lives. Forge ahead.

Nation's Victory in Battle Stressed

NC0303171491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Despite all the tunes played by the Western media, we are victorious. We are victorious because we supported justice not only with our hearts and mouths but also with our hands, actions, and souls.

We are victorious because over 30 states could not bow our heads, close our eyes, or silence our voice rejecting humiliation and defeat. We are victorious because our steadfastness against the alliance of evil has become a legend reiterated across the Arab and Islamic homelands. This legend is reiterated in Algeria,the Philippines, Jordan, Sudan, and Yemen and in the Western countries themselves.

We are victorious because thanks to the deeds of the Iraqi strugglers, Palestine has been resurrected in the hearts and minds of the honorable men, who differentiate between the trench of faith and the trench of atheism. Under the glowing fire of the Iraqis' guns, the plots of the traitors, their Arab allies, and those who are trading with the causes of the Arab people, against Arabism and Islam have been exposed.

We are victorious because we triumphed over the blockade and destruction, because we stood fast against the treason of Abraham [pre-Islamic era Abyssinyan military commander who marched on Mecca], and because the flag of God is great did not fall from our hands.

We are victorious because we planted the tree of righteousness in all our lands, watered it with our sweat, and protected it with our blood. We will not look backward no matter how strong the wind is. This has never been our character and will never be, with God's help.

Aims of Bush, Arab Coalition Denounced

NC0303224091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2005 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk from the "Holy Medina" program]

[Text] Our kinfolk in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]: When criminal Bush concentrated massive numbers of allied troops and begged for large sums to be spent on them, he sought to achieve several objectives formulated in the corridors of the White House and the hallways of Tel Aviv. Bush did not find it hard to fix the role of Arab agents and traitors in this conspiratorial scheme, as these agents and traitors were lying in wait to play their carefully planned role.

With this scheme, Bush sought to achieve the following objectives: to protect the security of the Zionist entity; to occupy Arab oil resources so as to be in a position to control the policies of consuming countries, especially Western Europe and Japan; to prevent the emergence of any power in the region capable of achieving strategic parity between the Arabs and the Zionist entity; to weaken Arab solidarity; and to deepen division and fragmentation in Arab society.

Bush wanted to implement this scheme with the means available: Arab traitors, Arab territory, and an Arab alliance with America to strike Iraq. He therefore excluded the Zionist entity from overt participation in this scheme so as not to embarrass his subservient Arab agents and to enable these agents to conceal the nature of their covert alliance with Israel. The betrayers of the Arab nation, such as Fahd and Husni, were at the forefront of the U.S.-led coalition, which numbered more than 30 states. The coalition sought to destroy Arab Muslim Iraq and to crush its military power.

For the first time in contemporary history, however, a country considered part of the Third World held out for more than seven months against an air, sea, and land blockade, and then confronted and foiled a plan to divide Iraq, a plan that could exist only in Bush's imagination and other rotten imaginations. Through its steadfastness, Iraq safeguarded itself against division, exposed the falsehood of U.S. claims, and revealed the major sin perpetrated by the Arab traitors, foremost among whom are agents Fahd and Husni.

This scheme, O people of Najd and Hejaz, targets not only Iraq but all Arab countries, especially the Gulf states, which are ruled by fragile and agent regimes. You must, therefore, confront all attempts to create divisions and to impose colonialist hegemony, goals the United States is openly announcing through its military officials. They say they will stay in the Arabian Gulf, reinforce their naval military force, leave weapons and heavy equipment in the region, and perform joint exercises with those weak regimes.

Many lessons have emerged in recent days. We must learn from them and punish the regime of agent Fahd, which betrayed the nation and its sanctities and squandered the wealth of the Arabs and Muslims to fulfill its role in this criminal conspiratorial scheme.

Gulf War Said To Expose 'Treachery' of Coalition

NC0103151991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that when great Iraq chose to fight the troop concentrations of the alliance of infidelity and aggression, it chose to epitomize its will, endurance, and its steadfastness. Likewise, it chose to inject new life into the hearts of millions of Arabs and Muslims.

In an article headlined "The Proper Choice and the Great Consequences," the paper adds that Iraq also chose to expose the cruelty, lowliness, treachery, and savagery that these troop concentrations demonstrate when their interests are exposed to an alleged threat by any party, regardless of the size or magnitude of this party.

The paper goes on to say: When it chose to fight this duel and elected to call it "the mother of battles," Iraq was fully aware of the huge magnitude of the evil alliance, its arrogance, and its scientific and technological capabilities. It was aware of the dimensions and background of the conspiracy hatched by this alliance. Hence, unlike these rancorous, miserable parties, Iraq did not harbor any illusions that it would outnumber them or be able to use weapons that could outwit their sophisticated equipment and weaponry. Iraq did not present an unrealistic picture of the extent and dimensions of its victory. When it chose to engage in this duel, Iraq was fully aware that it was capable of waging this battle. Similarly, it was sure that its might and the means of achieving victory at its disposal were capable of making it overcome its adversaries and enemies, considering its honest orientations and noble primary objectives.

The paper adds: Despite the various ramifications of this historic showdown and despite the clear differences existing between the capabilities of the camps of its two main antagonists—the camp of the faithful and mujahid Iraq on the one hand and the camp of savage and hostile infidelity on the other—the most significant tangible result took the form of exposing the hidden part of the evil conspiracy before all world peoples, especially after Bush, his allies, and agents insisted on continuing their aggression against Iraq and sought to destroy the pillars of its renaissance and development, to humiliate its great people, and crush their battle-hardened and valiant Army, although Iraq offered scores of peace initiatives.

The paper indicates that this insistence on achieving aggressive and evil objectives contravenes even the spirit of the international resolutions and shows intentions that have nothing to do with the main reasons for bringing in the ground, air, and naval fleets of the imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic alliance to the region. The attacks mounted against Iraq over the past 40 days—not to mention what Iraq sustained over more than seven months of political and economic aggression—have all been at the heart of the dangerous conspiracy targeting Iraq's renaissance, its development, its firm willpower, its great people, and its militant, historic leadership under mujahid leader Saddam Husayn, the paper adds.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that this conspiracy has exposed itself and those who were party to it. It showed millions of noble Iraqis just who loves their determination and their persistent endeavors to bolster their independence and consecrate their national capabilities and gains they made through patience and indefatigable jihad, and just who is angered by Iraq's bid for development; who harbors a rabid rancor against the Iraqis and any noble endeavor that they undertake to serve their homeland and nation. On top of these malicious parties come the hypocritical Arab agents and traitors, the paper adds.

Concluding its article, the paper says that the fact that Iraq has not allowed itself to fall into the trap of this conspiracy is to be viewed as a sign of victory and a result of the flexibility and wisdom of its courageous leadership and its great leader. The reconstruction and rebuilding endeavor that will take place, thanks to the strong determination of the Iraqis, will be the most sincere embodiment of Iraq's strong determination and its firm willpower, which is confident of its ability to contribute further to Iraq's future and also to the desired future of its generations.

Nation Wary of 'U.S. Treachery' After Cease-Fire

NC0203104691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH stresses that the plot against Iraq has failed dismally and that the Iraqi people has remained steadfast, its national soil protected, and its ability to rise undoubted.

In an editorial entitled "Iraq Will Remain a Symbol for Arab Struggle", the paper writes today that, regardless of the results and ugliness of the destruction, the Iraqi people will never forget those who launched and encouraged the aggression against it. It will always remember the details of this dirty plot, its extent, and its evil intentions. It says that the aggressors have planned this plot for many years, and with the first opportunity they had in the so-called Gulf crisis exploited the conditions to implement it and launch their treacherous aggression against Iraq's sovereignty, independence, and strength.

It adds that the Iraqi people will never forget the unjust resolutions passed by the Security Council under U.S. hegemony, particularly the economic boycott resolution which aimed at starving the Iraqi people and weakening its will to stand fast and resist.

AL-QADISIYAH goes on to say that the epic of the Iraqi steadfastness against this treacherous force will be remembered and will become the symbol of challenge and struggle against imperialist forces, particularly the legendary steadfastness shown by our patient and struggling people against the more than 100,000 treacherous air raids. It stresses that the epic fighting shown by our heroic army against 30 countries—including three so-called superpowers, one of which was the criminal United States with all its hostility and its extensive tools and means of death—will remain in the memory of the great people.

The paper concludes its editorial by saying that, through our valiant Armed Forces and the struggling Iraqi people, Iraq's wariness of U.S. treachery despite the ceasefire is capable of continuing the confrontation of the aggressors and protecting Iraq and its sovereignty over its territories and that its symbol leadership will remain to continue the struggle it has begun for Iraq's dignity and progress and for the Arab nation's dignity and restoration of its usurped rights.

Paper Holds U.S. Responsible for 'True Peace'

NC0203115891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—An Iraqi paper has held the United States responsible for the start of the war which it launched against Iraq and its peaceful people.

In today's editorial headlined "Ceasing Fire—A Haven for the Ship of Peace or a Port for Warships," AL-'IRAQ says that just as the American side is responsible for the start of war, it is also responsible for making the cease-fire a reality, away from warships of aggression.

The paper calls on the United States to heed the need for understanding matters deeply and for considering matters insightfully, in a manner that would lead it to abandon its arrogance and conceit and to weigh the situation according to a historical and futuristic logic. To achieve this, first of all, it has to evacuate and depart the entire region.

The paper adds: Now that the two sides have agreed to the cease-fire, it is easy for observers to draw the conclusion that ceasing fire is closer to a precarious truce than to a stable truce which opens the door to the aspired peace and leads to stability.

The paper stresses that making the agreement to cease-fire a bridge that leads to a final end to the war and eliminates its manifestations requires serious, objective, and constructive consideration of the causes which led to the flareup.

The paper adds that making the agreement to cease-fire the preliminary gate to the elimination of the specter of fighting requires eliminating the motives of the war and the conclusive return of security to the region.

The paper stresses that the above description is not a figment of the imagination, but rather an insightful view of the reality of the current events, and all matters and objectives which underlie these events. Therefore, true peace comes with the true intention of peace, and renouncing war can be achieved by first of all removing this idea from the mind.

The paper concludes: By saying this, we do not mean to reply in abstract words to the accusation that Iraq has wasted many chances of peace. What we are saying is based on hard, conclusive evidence which extends to the strategic outlook that governs Iraq's vision and conduct.

The paper recalls in this regard President Saddam Husayn's assurances that drawing up a war plan on the basis of waiting for the first strike is wrong and that this is sufficient to indicate that Iraq's intention was not based on war, but on looking toward honorable peace. This is because had Iraq been intent on waging war, its Armed Forces would have dealt the first strike.

U.S., Israel Aim To Divide Nation Into 'Statelets'

NC0203130591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that dividing Iraq into cardboard statelets has always been a long-term aim of the Americans, prompted by the Zionist entity.

In its political commentary today headlined "The Spiteful Ones Do Not Want To See the Truth," the paper notes that the illegitimate Zionist entity planted on Arab soil fears resurgent Iraqi power, and therefore, the presence of illegitimate cardboard entities in the region strengthens the illegitimate existence of the Zionist entity, making it a fait accompli which leaves the Arabs no choice but to accept it in the future.

The paper says: Therefore, it can be argued that Iraq's confrontation of this American-Zionist plot was firm, that this confrontation bore fruit when the evil ones were prevented from realizing all their aspirations and wishes. It is enough honor for us to have been able to prevent the evil ones from realizing their aims and to preserve our country and its territorial integrity, thus eliminating the basic link in the series of hostile aims.

In its political commentary, the paper expresses conviction that the wicked ones who wanted to pick the fruits of their infamous gathering are very well aware of the failure they obtained from their sinful aggression, that had they not gathered forces from the four corners of the world, they would not have been able to attain what they attained, and that Iraq emerged safe and sound, unaffected by their plots and hostile intentions. From overseas and prevented their supporters from realizing their evil, hideous aims. [sentence as received] This also proves Iraq's victory over the American and Zionist aims and plots.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The spiteful ones and those who cast doubt have a different opinion because their spite blinds them to the complete truth. They want to simplify matters in order to gloat and to satisfy their hatred by giving the impression that Iraq has come out with adverse results.

The paper says that the future will continue to be open for Iraq, which will continue to live with hope and light. Time will show how legendary Iraq's steadfastness was in confronting the fierce onslaught, thanks to our country's unity and our determination to maintain our dignity untouched while facing the aggressors.

'Analysts' Examine Aims of New U.S. Security Plan

NC0203154191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1237 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—Political analysts have affirmed that the new security structure sought by the U.S. Administration and which Iraq warned against is based on the assumption that the U.S. Administration should lead the world and that the age will have to be modelled on the U.S. way of life.

In a political article published today in AL-'IRAQ, the analysts added that the U.S. policy, which aims to create new values for the international community and a new world order according to its own whims, is in line with the United States's aspirations of imposing hegemony on the world so that it can be the greatest power; nay, the only power controlling the lifeline of the universe.

The analysts affirmed that the United States, under the new security structure, aims to have the final say in the world's overall political changes, its economic developments, and its scientific and technological progress, and also to militarily control world events and affairs. The United States also believes that the international economic lifeline of the world should have its blessings and endorsement.

The political analysts recalled what Iraq said to the effect that the Arab nation's interests and its central issues, foremost among which is the Palestine question, do not exist on the map of the so-called new security structure of which the U.S. Administration is talking, except for what is condoned and deemed acceptable by the United States and the Zionist entity and only in the special cases in which U.S. and Zionist interests are not jeopardized if these Arab issues are taken into account. They indicated that the interests of the Third World and those of the developing nations are taken into account only when there is no danger to the U.S. Administration's interests.

As for economic development, political independence, free trade, and unrestricted dealings among countries and peoples, they are accepted only if they pass through the U.S. channels. The analysts added that the new security structure also stipulates that the ability of peoples and independent states to defend themselves against external threats and acts of aggression must be subject to the U.S. consent even if the U.S. perspective, interpretations, and positions are diametrically opposed to the real objectives of these states and peoples.

Hence, the political article published by AL-'IRAQ stresses that the all-out and shameful aggression staged against Iraq by the U.S. Administration has clearly and unequivocally exposed the dimensions of this expansionist and hostile scheme.

In their article, the analysts warned the international community against the objectives and dimensions of this scheme, affirming that the Americans will make no exceptions in this scheme for any party, including those who have chosen to forfeit the interests of their countries and peoples and to relinquish their free independent decisionmaking only to become drum beaters and discordant voices operating in the chorus of aggression echoing the U.S. positions and decisions.

Paper Decries 'Hypocritical' Gulf Arabs

NC0303112591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Mar (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has emphasized that the imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic alliance's savage and brutal aggression against Iraq has not been a soft job but rather a vicious act by all colonialist forces and the odious circles of malice and savagery.

In today's editorial, the paper says: Everyone's aim was to destroy all the foundations of Iraq's progress, to rip Iraq apart both politically and geographically and turn it into an abject subordinate, so that Iraq would be similar to this or that part of the Arab homeland which takes orders from U.S. White House circles.

The paper adds that, judging from the magnitude of the hostile onslaught, the level of the valiant Iraqi confrontation throughout the past seven months and throughout Iraq's new era, which evolved on 17 and 30 July 1968, and by judging the foreign, national, and pan-Arab challenges over these years and months, Iraq's potential steadfastness and strong resolve has become clearly evident.

The paper notes that the duration of the aggression stretched over that long period of time and was not limited to 100 hours, as the oppressive criminals claim; nor was it confined to 40 days of aerial and missile attacks and land battles.

The paper points out that the Iraqis' jihad, sacrifices, and steadfastness are greater than all imagination and probability—in spite of the direct results in the battlefields, which were not all negative, as the aggression alliance insists on portraying to the world.

The paper concludes its editorial by saying that it suffices to take a quick glance to see the scandal of the despicable and hypocritical Arabs of the Gulf, their frantic role and malicious intentions toward Iraq, and their open and unwavering subservience, loyalty, and direct links with the White House and the Zionist entity.

'Sources:' Military Planning To Overthrow Saddam

LD0403093391 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Informed sources have stated today that senior officers in the Iraqi Army are planning to overthrow the tyrant and set up a military council comprised of three members and chaired by Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid, who commanded the Republican Guards and who was relieved of his post after the Iraq-Iran war.

Absconding Troops Said To Fire at Commander

PM0103151991 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 28 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "It Is Being Said"]

[Text] It is being said that soldiers escaping from al-Rashid Camp in Baghdad opened fire on Air Force Commander Muzahim Sa'b al-Takriti in front of the secret air command center at al-Karradah crossroads.

Reportage on Anti-Saddam Feeling, Demonstrations

Signs of 'Popular Revolt' in Basra

LD0203093391 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 2 Mar 91 p 1

[Lead story by Patrick Bishop in Safwan, southern Iraq, entitled "'Saddam is finished' cries as Basra explodes in anarchy," subheaded "Dictator believed to be seeking asylum"]

[Excerpts] The first signs of a popular revolt against the dictatorship of President Saddam Husayn erupted in Basra, Iraq's second largest city, yesterday. An eye witness described the city as being in a state of anarchy as crowds cheered and shouted anti-Saddam slogans when an Iraqi tank fired shells through a huge portrait of the defeated leader.

Officials of the Ba'th party, the instrument of Saddam's regime, were reported to have fled and many soldiers, including a large number of wounded, were pulling out.

But reports from Egyptian refugees crossing the border into Kuwait said that troops loyal to the regime were intimidating and even killing Egyptian workers in the city.

Mr 'Abdullah Jabir al-Badran, 24, a student from Kuwait, said that at 9am an Iraqi tank fired three or four shells through a giant portrait of Saddam wearing military uniform in the centre of town next to the Ba'th Party and Popular Army headquarters.

"The people cheered. They shouted 'Saddam is finished. All the army are dead.'"

Mr. al-Badran said that the other tanks in the square did nothing to intervene and that soldiers had joined the demonstration. "They were all shooting in the air and saying they don't like Saddam."

Such scenes would have been unthinkable in a pre-war Iraq and amount to a serious challenge to the regime's authority. Mr al-Badran, who like many Kuwaitis knows the city well, said that no one seemed to be in charge. "There is no government in Basra," he said.

He said that soldiers were stripping off their uniforms, many abandoning their weapons and leaving, even though American forces do not appear to be close to the city. He encountered none on his journey to the border.

Egyptian refugees fleeing the city because they feared a pogrom confirmed the picture of chaos. One said that soldiers entered a shopping centre, fired in the air and ordered Egyptians to leave because of their government's support for the war.

Another said up to 20 Egyptians had been killed in the last five days. Mr Omar Muhamed Husayn said two had been killed in the al-Zubayr area, south west of Basra. [passage omitted]

From Baghdad it is rumoured that senior government officials, including Mr 'Aziz, have come to accept that they will not be able to begin to rebuild Iraq unless Saddam goes.

In exchange for a guarantee that their country—apart perhaps from a buffer zone on the Kuwaiti border—would be left intact, many of them are attempting to put together a transitional government which would take power at the end of the period left by the Americans for agreement of a final ceasefire.

However, although it seems that Saddam is seriously considering the exile option, no one seems certain that he will definitely step down. Baghdad radio was still calling for him to "ride out the storm" yesterday. [passage omitted]

'Thousands' Reportedly Protest

NC0203184991 Paris AFP in English 1816 GMT 2 Mar 91

[By Chris Lefkow]

[Text] Safwan, Iraq, March 2 (AFP)—Thousands of Iraqis staged anti-Saddam Husayn protests in several southern Iraqi cities on Saturday, storming prisons in the port of Basra and releasing inmates, eye-witnesses said.

An Iraqi policeman who crossed allied lines on foot on Friday [1 March] to urge U.S. forces to come and liberate Basra said that armed groups were organizing the anti-government protests in the city.

Iraqis interviewed inside Iraq about 15 kilometers (nine miles) beyond allied lines reported anti-government protests in Basra and other cities including al-Zubayr, al-Samawah and al-Nasiriyah.

A 35-year-old Iraqi businessman said that tens of thousands of people took part in protests in al-Zubayr.

"It's a big demonstration and we hope that by today or tomorrow Saddam no longer exists," he said, adding that "the soldiers are finished."

The policeman, who requested anonymity, said the army had not intervened so far in Basra, even after the demonstrators "opened the jails and released all the prisoners."

He said that among those freed were Kuwaitis, Saudis, Palestinians and Iraqis.

The Iraqi man, who was still carrying his police identification card, told reporters in this devastated Iraqi border town occupied by U.S. troops that "some of (the protestors) are very scared."

"If this falls down they might be killed by the Iraqi government," he said.

"All Iraq doesn't want Saddam. But we can't all rise up," he said, appealing for allied help in toppling Mr. Husayn.

After talking to reporters, the Iraqi policeman was taken away by a Kuwaiti serving with the U.S. Army for interrogation.

"Nobody knows who's in charge," said an Iraqi farmer returning from Basra with two other men.

He said the protestors were out in the streets because there are "no clothes, no food, no nothing."

An Iraqi Army officer who stopped his truck carrying about half a dozen men to talk to reporters said he was not aware of any protests in Basra but said "some people may be angry" with Mr. Husayn.

Lieutenant Muthanna Sa'd, a supply officer, said that he personally supported the Iraqi leader but he criticized the invasion of Kuwait.

He lashed out at allied forces, blaming them for the war and said "Iraq wants peace."

"But Europe and America they want Iraqi people hungry," he said.

"All we want from God is peace in Iraq and for (allied troops) to go forever to your country," he said.

'Violent Clashes' Reported

LD0303112891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] According to Central News Unit reports from Ahvaz and Bakhtaran, quoting people who have entered Iran from Iraq, violent clashes have occurred between the people and government forces in the four Iraqi provinces of al-Basrah, al-'Imarah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-Kut.

Also, according to an IRNA report, widespread disturbances and clashes have occurred in the Iraqi towns of al-'Imarah and 'Ali Gharbi in the past few days.

Shias Said Fighting Pro-Saddam Troops

NC0303190191 Paris AFP in English 1806 GMT 3 Mar 91

[By Kate Webb]

[Excerpts] al-Zubayr, Iraq, March 3 (AFP)—Thousands of Iraqi Shia Muslims have taken up arms against troops loyal to President Saddam Husayn in four southern Iraqi towns, resistance fighters said here Sunday.

Some Shia groups are also attacking allied troops, according to a statement issued by a Shia opposition group in Beirut.

The four towns, including Basra, Iraq's second city, were said to be the scene of demonstrations and fighting against pro-Husayn loyalists.

Meanwhile an Iraqi Shiite group in Beirut said it controlled several communities in southern Iraq and was mounting resistance against occupying allied troops. [passage omitted]

A civilian farmer said the four towns—Basra, al-Nasiriyah, al-Samawah and al-Diwaniyah—were up in arms.

"The army is divided," said Hamad Ibrahim Wali, 32, a Shia farmer who said three of his friends had been killed in street fighting in Basra and six others wounded.

Mr. Ibrahim Wali said Iraqi troops in the town were confused, and didn't know where to go because "there are American troops to the north of Basra."

"They are surrounded," he said. [passage omitted]

The Shia fighters identified their leader as "al-Bakr"—with some giving his full name was Muhammad Bakr Hakim.

Mr. Wali carried a hand-written letter in English addressed to allied troop commanders stationed in southern Iraq which read: "After the great liberation we have done against Saddam and his forces, we suffer from some forces related and led by Saddam's party and army.

"So we are in need of help as much as possible. All Iraqi citizens ... are in need of foreign forces ... our best gratitude."

Mr. Wali said American soldiers he had met on the road on the Kuwait-Iraq border had handed the letter back to him, saying they could not help.

"Our main problem is communication between the cities, we have no communications so we have to send runners," he said. [passage omitted]

In Beirut, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), which groups Islamic organisations opposed to Mr. Husayn, said it controlled several communities in southern Iraq and was mounting resistance against occupied allied troops.

Six hundred people had been freed from a jail in the city of al-Nasiriyah, it said.

SAIRI said its forces had since Friday been in control of Suq al-Shawk, al-Tar and al-Fuhud, as well as the suburbs of al-Nasiriyah.

Local residents supported by SAIRI militants attacked the central prison in al-Nasiriyah Saturday, freeing 600 people, including 300 SAIRI activists, the SAIRI statement said.

Islamic militants, according to the SAIRI communique, "opened fire Saturday night on an invading (allied) unit that was trying to approach the city of al-Nasiriyah."

"A brief exchange of fire took place and the unit, made up of infantrymen, turned back," it said.

Shias Said To Control Some Cities

NC0403063991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] There have been reports about growing disturbances in southern Iraq. IRNA said anti-Saddam Husayn demonstrations have taken place in al-'Amarah and 'Ali al-Gharbi cities over the past two days.

Damascus radio also reported these disturbances, citing Iraqi nationals who took refuge in Syria.

Citing Iraqi witnesses, AFP correspondents said demonstrations against President Saddam Husayn took place in the cities of Basra, al-Nasiriyah, al-Samawah, and al-Zubayr. The same agency added that thousands of Iraqi Shiites have taken up arms against the Iraqi Army loyal to President Saddam Husayn in the cities of Basra, al-Nasiriyah, al-Samawah, and al-Diwaniyah. These Shiite fighters say they follow Muhammad Baqir Hakim, head of the supreme assembly of Islamic revolution in Iraq.

This assembly, which has its headquarters in Tehran and which groups the Iraqi Shiite opposition, issued a statement in Beirut yesterday, saying that the cities of Suq al-Shuyukh, (al-Tar), and (al-Fuhud), as well as several quarters in al-Nasiriyah City in southern Iraq, have been brought under their control since last Friday evening [1 March].

Basra Officials Reportedly Killed

LD0403111391 Tehran IRNA in English 1017 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., March. 3, IRNA—The governor general of al-Basrah Province and the governor of the port-city of Basra have been killed during clashes between people and forces loyal to President Saddam Husayn, said refugees who arrived here from Iraq Monday.

The refugees said that following the escalation of anti-regime demonstrations throughout Iraq, Basra was now controlled by people.

A refugee claimed that 'Uday Husayn, son of President Saddam Husayn had been killed in the demonstrations.

They also claimed that on their way to Iran they witnessed other demonstrations in towns near Basra such as al-Tannumah and Abu-al-Khasib and that they saw Iraqi soldiers returning from Kuwait hand over their arms to people and join them in anti-Saddam demonstrations.

They said that only the Republican Guards were backing the Iraqi president.

SAIRI Claims Control in Basra

OW0403121291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1141 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Amman, March 4 KYODO—A Fundamentalist Muslim group opposing President Saddam Husayn said on Monday it had taken control of Basra, Iraq's second largest city, reports reaching here from the Syrian capital of Damascus said.

The reports quoted a spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) as saying in Damascus that Basra's governor, mayor and police chief had been killed.

Basra has been in a state of unrest since Iraq's defeat in the Persian Gulf war last week.

The spokesman also said Kurdish guerrillas controlled the northern city of Sulaymaniyah.

He said Husayn's Presidential Republican Guard tried to retake Basra, but was driven out by rebels and Iraqi troops who joined them, the reports said.

Demonstrations Reportedly Suppressed

LD0403132591 Tehran IRNA in English 1153 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Ahvaz, Mar. 3, IRNA—People arriving in Iran from Iraq Monday disclosed that anti-government demonstrations were mounting throughout that country.

The refugees also said a number of people had been injured in clashes with security forces during demonstrations in Iraq's southern cities.

They said forces loyal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn were suppressing the demonstrators which included some soldiers with tanks and other heavy weapons.

Meanwhile, the sound of several explosions in Iraq's port city of Basra shook the southern Iranian port city of Khorramshahr Monday.

The boom of explosions possibly caused by bombardment of Basra by dissident Iraqi pilots, was heard between 1130 and 1230 hours local time (0800 and 0830 GMT).

Over the past few days, the Iraqi people opposed to the Baghdad government have reportedly staged demonstrations in the southern provinces of Basra and Dhi Qar and in the city of al-Samawah.

'Underground Radio' Calls for Saddam's Overthrow

AU0303193491 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1800 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Report by Michael Opoczynski]

[Text] An underground radio station called for Saddam Husayn's overthrow. The message was recorded late Saturday night [2 March]. It was carried on shortwave radio and the transmission took only a few minutes. It was received by Michael Gurdus, who is called Israel's ear and who has been listening in on Iraq on behalf of the Israelis and the Americans since the beginning of the Gulf war. He said that the voice sounded like that of General Hasan (?Maki). He was formerly the deputy commander of the Iraqi Army and escaped from Iraq in 1979. He now calls on the Iraqi soldiers to march to Baghdad and to join his salvation army. He said that those who join his army can save the soldiers' lives and the weapons that are still intact, Gurdus stated.

This call was broadcast at approximately 1100 Iraqi time [1400 GMT] on Saturday. The radio bearings showed that the radio station transmitted it on a so-far unused frequency and that it must be located on Iraqi territory.

Shiite Group Tells Saddam To Resign by 7 Mar

LD0103123191 Hamburg DPA in German 1132 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Munich (DPA)—The Shiite opposition alliance "Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" has called on all Iraqis living abroad to return to their homeland immediately, "under all circumstances," to start "the armed struggle" against President Saddam Husayn. Abdullah al-Bakri, the "Supreme Assembly" spokesman who lives in Germany, told DPA today in Munich that in a statement from the Assembly published today, Saddam Husayn was also called on to resign from all his offices "by 7 March at the latest." Otherwise "all legitimate and justified means" will be used in order to implement this demand.

On 3 March, representatives from the "Supreme Assembly" intend to meet in Tehran to form a "transitional government," said Al- Bakri, who also said that he is returning to Iraq after 28 years in the Federal Republic. Most of those in the association who left Iraq decades ago, no longer have Iraqi passports, but can get in through the south of the country controlled by the allies. The spokesman did not want to give more detailed information on this.

The "Supreme Assembly," run by Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim and headquartered in Tehran, is striving for Iraq to be converted into an Islamic republic.

Reportage, Comments on Preparations for Baker Visit

New Peace Plan Modeled on Helsinki Accords

TA0403104091 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Mar 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Excerpt] When Secretary of State Baker visits Israel at the beginning of next week, Jerusalem will propose a new mechanism with which to further the peace process. These will be confidence-building measures [preceding three words in English] based on the success of the Helsinki talks held between the United States and the Soviet Union. The supporters of this plan are Foreign Minister David Levi, his deputy Binyamin Netanyahu, Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, and other senior officials.

The logic behind the new mechanism is that peace between Israel and the Arabs cannot be achieved in one dramatic step, due to the deep and historic enmity between the two peoples. Therefore peace should be pursued in gradual steps, while tackling the easy issues first. The formulators of this new initiative propose that in the first stage the Arab countries will be asked to end the state of war with Israel, and the mutual trust that will be created between the parties in small steps will, with time, permit taking larger steps, with the ultimate goal being full peace.

The plan proposes that Israel and the Arab states begin cooperating on mutually agreed upon issues and leave the tougher issues, such as the question of the territories, borders, and Jerusalem, for the end, just like the United States and the Soviets did during the Helsinki talks, which went on for 15 years between 1975 and 1990. The promulgators of this plan believe that mutual trust between Israel and the Arabs will strengthen with time until the parties are ready to take the big plunge, just like the Americans and the Soviets in the important disarmament agreements.

The Israeli proposal, which will be submitted to Baker next week, was not brought before the cabinet and therefore not discussed. It was cooked up by the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry, and constitutes an attempt to circumvent the most difficult point of disagreement between Israel and the Arab countries, in other words, the formula of territories for peace. This formula, which for the Arabs is an irrevocable condition, is flatly rejected by the incumbent Israeli Government. The new Israeli suggestion is also an attempt to postpone the discussion of the Palestinian problem, at least temporarily.

According to this model, the peace process between Israel and the Arab states will begin with projects in which both parties have a common interest, such as, for example, joint agricultural, water, and energy projects; or student and journalistic exchanges, and cooperation to facilitate easy travel routes for international tourism between the Arab countries and Israel through the Golan Heights to Syria or through the security zone to Lebanon.

Israel is interested that the United States, which has gained the trust of most of the region's countries during the Gulf war, support and closely follow the plan to help it succeed. [passage omitted]

Shamir Not To Present 'New Ideas'

TA0303075791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Mar 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Uri Nir, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] Israel will not present new concrete ideas to Secretary of State James Baker when he visits Jerusalem next Sunday. Political sources in Israel said Saturday night that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir prefers to present his new ideas to President Bush, with whom he will confer in the middle of next week. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 3 March, in a page 1 report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, says: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir might leave for the United States in mid-month, and during his stay there he is interested in meeting with President Bush to coordinate moves to advance regional settlements." The report says that Shamir has been invited to Washington by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Israeli lobby, and to Canada to meet with Prime Minister Mulroney. A decision on the trip will be made within 48 hours, the report added. "Political circles in Jerusalem believe that Shamir should leave for the United States to reach a basic understanding with President Bush on the current political moves being worked on."]

In a meeting over the weekend with Senator John Seymour, Prime Minister Shamir said that Israel will do everything possible to advance peace. He said that to do so Israel must see whether the Arab world is prepared to conduct direct negotiations with it, since "only in this way will it be possible to test the demands of both sides, and that is a step forward on the way to peace." Shamir expressed the hope that better conditions have now been created in the Middle East following the defeat of Saddam Husayn. Only somebody who wants peace is ready to come to the negotiating table, he said, while Arab states that propose an international conference do so because they do not recognize the State of Israel.

Shamir explained that although there are many ways to convince countries to accept something they do not want, when peace is concerned it is very important for countries to accept it of their own free will and not because it is forced on them. He said that any other way could be accompanied by daily violence.

While the prime minister has declared his adherence to the election initiative of May 1989, Foreign Minister David Levi has lately been studying alternative ideas aimed at bypassing the obstacle of Palestinian representation, especially since the United States and Egypt have lately been skeptical about the chances of holding elections in the territories. Levi does not rule out an appointed Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that would discuss with Israel the implementation of the autonomy principle parallel to setting up permanent security measures to inspire trust between the parties.

The Foreign Ministry recently prepared a document on that subject based on discussions with the USSR, among other things. It proposes the establishment of a standing committee composed of permanent representatives from all the states in the region. Its role would be to prevent military confrontations through mutual updates on military maneuvers and movements. The USSR proposes that the committee be based in Cyprus and that it be aided by the United Nations or the superpowers, if need be.

At today's cabinet meeting several ministers will ask to discuss the renewal of the political process. A bloc of ministers supports Levi's position, calling for an Israeli initiative that would prevent outside pressure. In the Likud there are those who believe that such an approach is supported by Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Ministers Ehud Olmert, Dan Meridor, Arye Der'i, Zvulun Hammer, and Refa'el Pinhasi. Minister Avner Sciaki recently also expressed support for such an initiative.

On the other side is Minister Ari'el Sharon, who has demanded that Arab states first declare an end to the state of hostilities as a condition for negotiations with them. He is being supported by Ministers Rehav'am Ze'evi, Refa'el Eytan, and Yuval Ne'eman, all of whom oppose negotiations with the Palestinians. Ne'eman said that we should negotiate with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and not with the Arabs in the territories who "expressed their views on the roofs" [where they cheered Iraqi missile attacks on Israel]. He believes that control over the Muslim waqf should be removed from Jordan and transferred to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 3 March, in a page 11 report by Arye Avneri, adds that Minister Ne'eman is preparing a plan for economic cooperation between Israel and Saudi Arabia. "The plan is based on the assumption that there will be contacts between the two countries, under U.S. auspices, within the framework of the Middle East 'new order.' Ne'eman says that the Saudis will be interested in exploiting Israeli expertise in certain fields in order to increase the security of the region following the Gulf war."

[Ne'eman's plan is reportedly based on the export of Israeli technological expertise in water desalination, science-based industries, and solar energy.]

Shamir Urged To Initiate New Peace Moves

TA0303103891 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Leave the Bunker"]

[Text] Secretary of State James Baker—who did not visit Israel on his earlier trips, which were associated with military deployment—will visit us this time within the framework of the political deployment after the war. That in itself means that, contrary to the declarations in Washington, "linkage" [preceding word in English] is alive and kicking. As long as the war was on, we were ordered to stay out. Now we are being urged to be in, since we are a cornerstone without which the desired new order will not be set up.

Now that there is a chance to reach a dialogue with our neighbors and to make progress on a solution to the Palestinian issue—due to the circumstances and the aid of the victorious United States—what does our government and the person heading it do? While we, the ordinary people, have aired out our sealed rooms, Shamir and Co. are still hiding out in their ideological bunker and reciting in chorus that the entire world is once more opposed to us: Baker and associates want to take the territories from us, which our enemies did not succeed in wrenching from us by force.

Bolstered by the restraint for which he was lauded by the entire world, Shamir hopes to use that ammunition to foil what appears to him to be an international conspiracy. Firm in his position not to yield a single inch, Shamir will once again try to gain time until the end of 1992, when elections are to be held in the United States and Israel. He therefore treats with disdain and totally rejects the position of David Levi, who is urging the prime minister to take the initiative before solutions are imposed upon us.

In the meantime, no group is being formed in the government to line up with the foreign minister and against the prime minister.

Unlike the government, the leading opposition has abandoned the bunker and is trying to air out its platform and adapt its plans to the new reality in the region.

In a determined jump forward, which entailed certain risks even within the party, Moshe Shahal —who is a member of the "leadership within the leadership," as the late Pinhas Sapir used to say—said openly what many of his colleagues feel in their hearts. His brave remarks in support of a Palestinian state alongside Israel are now supported by a group of "doves" in the Labor Party, which found the courage to oppose the old/new plan of their patron Shim'on Peres, which is an attempt to revive the London accord with King Husayn for negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation under a superpower umbrella.

The Labor Party, however, is like the Likud in that it does not speak with a single voice. Its right wing is also shouting its opposition to Shahal, and we would not be surprised if Rabin foils Peres' plan.

Anyway, what chance does the Alignment have to lead the country?

Ben-Aharon Discusses Visit

TA0303065491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0526 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Dan Shilon—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good morning, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] And a good morning to you, Dan.

[Shilon] Even if this or that political plan is not about to be changed, why not hold a political debate before the U.S. secretary of state arrives next week?

[Ben-Aharon] Debates are always under way. You are talking about a cabinet debate, and that is something the prime minister is responsible for. I cannot speak for him regarding that specific issue on the cabinet's agenda. Officials on the professional level, however, have for several days been working on preparations for the secretary of state's visit, preparations regarding all the political issues, and the presentation of our political positions. We shall continue our work until the prime minister, who has most probably consulted with the appropriate ministers, says that Israel is ready to present the secretary of state with its consolidated opinions.

[Shilon] You mentioned preparations. Are you referring to preparations to withstand expected pressure, or do we have some new initiative?

[Ben-Aharon] By preparations I was referring both to an initiative and.... [changes thought] I would not use the term withstand, because we are not actually expecting the Americans to come with dictates on this trip. I think they also have had some thoughts and reflections regarding the path they have taken up until now and whether it was correct. For example, should the Palestinian issue receive top priority, or should the focus of U.S. activity be transferred to relations between Israel and the Arab countries? We, of course, have our positions on those issues.

[Shilon] Are those statements an expression of hope that this will be the new U.S. policy, or do you know that this is indeed the case?

[Ben-Aharon] I am pleased to say that we heard similar statements even before the war, when we held meetings with U.S. officials who have an influential say in those matters. That came against the background of the U.S. Administration's experience accumulated during the 14 months that preceded the crisis in the Persian Gulf. They held a long dialogue with the PLO in Tunis; they spoke with us, with the Arab states, and with the Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; and they learned for themselves just how hard it is to consolidate any kind of formula that could be acceptable to both sides. I also think that they learned that one cannot hope for progress in this area as long as the Arab world persists in its hostility toward Israel, as well as in its refusal to hold any form of dialogue with us or to end the state of war.

[Shilon] Over the past few days, Shim'on Peres and several Labor Party leaders have been dusting off the idea of the Geneva conference, either as a process or as some kind of an opening to direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors. Could that be acceptable to the government?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, at least that idea cannot be called new. It is a vintage one. Everyone knows that I do not rule out old ideas. The problem here, however, is not the technical aspect of a conference in Geneva under the aegis of the two superpowers or a conference under a wider framework. I would like to stress that the problem is much more fundamental: Can we can tell ourselves that the Arab states are willing to negotiate with us as equals? And if so, then the technical framework and the auspices under which it would be held are of minor importance. Or do they wish to employ gimmicks [preceding word here and elsewhere in English] to transfer the locus of responsibility for a dialogue and a peace process with Israel to a third party—to the United Nations, to an international conference, or to the superpowers—out of a desire to avoid the need to discuss things with Israel face-to-face in a process of give-and-take negotiations, to achieve an acceptable formula.

[Shilon] Syria did not join the U.S. coalition as a gimmick. That was a practical step. Can that step be used as a lever to pursue a political process with Syria?

[Ben-Aharon] It can. We have no opposition to that. The question is whether there has really been any change in Syria's position or whether it simply adapted itself to a reality in which the Soviet Union, its former superpower patron, was no longer willing to extend the same aid. That is one thing. Second, Syria found it propitious now, in the array of forces that deployed in the Middle East, to come to help Saudi Arabia. The question is whether all that foreshadows a change in Syria's attitude toward the State of Israel. That must be examined.

[Shilon] Regarding an international conference with Soviet participation, does the Soviet Union still scare Israel as much as it did a year or two ago?

[Ben-Aharon] It does not scare us, and there have certainly been some changes there. The most important change, perhaps, as far as Israel is concerned, was the permission given to Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel. The situation there, however, is what I would call volatile as far as Soviet policy toward the Middle East is concerned. Ever since Shevardnadze's departure and the entrance of people like Primakov, we have been hearing a tone similar to that of earlier years. Those people are known to have a pro-Arab orientation. All this is happening at a time when the Soviet Union has still not restored with Israel the normal level of ambassadorial relations it enjoys with other countries.

[Shilon] In that case we shall continue to respectfully distrust them. Thank you, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

No Change Foreseen in Government's Plan

TA0403062791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0515 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Discussion between anchorman Dan Shilon and political correspondent Natan Gutman—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good morning, Natan.

[Gutman] Good morning, Dan.

[Shilon] How is Jerusalem preparing for Secretary of State Baker's visit aside from Ambassador Shoval's reported suggestion that Israel should come up with new ideas?

[Gutman] Yes, in a cable sent from the Israeli Embassy in Washington to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, Ambassador Shoval recommends bringing new ideas to the meeting with Baker. Shoval expressed the belief that this could further the peace process and constitute the response Secretary of State Baker is expecting. We should point out, however, that many cables arrive from Israeli embassies worldwide and that this is merely an assessment and a recommendation, not an unequivocal statement. The secretary of state did not tell Shoval that he expects to hear new ideas.

Yesterday, we saw Secretary Baker on television and he was saying exactly the opposite, at least in public. As for the plans currently being prepared in Jerusalem, the prime minister and the foreign minister have no intention of changing the political initiative before Baker's visit to Israel. Proof of that can be found in the fact that Foreign Minister David Levi is leaving for London today, and, if plans cannot be altered at the last minute, he will make it back to Israel only after the political debate is held in a ministerial forum this Wednesday. In other words, Wednesday's debate is not designed to alter or introduce any significant changes in the government's political plan. It is only being held to permit the right-wing ministers to let off some steam so that the initiative of 14 May 1989 can later be pursued.

[Shilon] In other words, there is more of an intention to soothe the right-wing ministers than to look for solutions that could be found more left of center to Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Gutman] Yes, officials in the Prime Minister's Office and in the Foreign Ministry are not of the opinion that the political plan should be altered at this stage. The prime minister himself showed he was of the same opinion in statements he made at yesterday's cabinet session and in statements that were directed at Foreign Minister Levi. Shamir said that as long as everyone stood united behind the government's guidelines everything would be all right; then Israel would present a united front and there would be nothing to worry about. In other words the prime minister does not believe in making any changes whatsoever in the political plan of 14 May 1989.

[Shilon] Thank you, political correspondent Natan Gutman.

Ambassador Shoval on Visit

TA0203203991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Interview with Zalman Shoval, ambassador to Washington, by Ya'ir Stern in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Stern] Mr. Shoval, this week Secretary of State Baker will arrive in Israel for the first time. What plan will he bring along?

[Shoval] In my opinion, he will bring no plan, merely thoughts. He will come for the general purpose of reviewing the situation in the Gulf, and his first priority is no doubt the Gulf issue and relations among the various partners there. He will naturally address the Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian issues as well, although I do not think these are at the top of his agenda. [passage omitted]

The Americans are right in that they want to move quickly toward stability in the countries which were involved in the Gulf war, in order to prevent a new conflagration and to avert a destabilizing of the already-achieved equilibrium. They want to move quickly on issues pertaining to us, too, and we do not oppose this. As we have already said—and there is much more attentiveness these days to what we are saying—from our viewpoint, the main point is the fact that the Arab countries have not accepted the State of Israel. As I said, much more positive attention is now being accorded to our contention that having rescued its Arab allies, the United States must have influence with them and, therefore, it can and must tell these countries: Gentlemen, we will not revert to the prewar situation; please proceed to talk peace with the Israelis. [passage omitted]

[Stern] You will be joining Baker on his visit to Israel. What suggestions will you offer the Israeli Government on ways to deal with him?

[Shoval] I will suggest that the Israeli Government realize that the visit presents an opportunity to pay a great deal of attention to some things that had hardly any U.S. support in the past. Although I would not say that people here have adopted our stands, nowadays the United States is also questioning certain premises. For instance, is a Palestinian state truly the solution? They have seen what the PLO is and how Palestinians behaved. I will not say they are no longer talking in terms of territories for peace, because they certainly are, but they are also asking to whom the territories are to be handed over. To the Palestinians, under PLO leadership? To Jordan, under the leadership of Husayn, who also adopted dubious, or unacceptable to the Americans, stands in this war? What I mean is that there is an opening here that Israel can seize by offering its ideas. Our approach can serve as a preliminary platform toward future negotiations.

[Stern] Speaking of Palestinians, what is your opinion about the statements of Palestinian leaders in the territories who announced that they will boycott Baker, that they will not meet with him because he discontinued dialogue with the PLO?

[Shoval] It is a tragedy for both the Palestinians and the Israelis that the Palestinians boycott every opportunity which offers them a chance to achieve something. This is the reason they are where they are. It has always been our hope that the Palestinians will rid themselves of the leadership which has steered them into so many disasters, including people who gave their support to Saddam Husayn. Look where Saddam Husayn and the Palestinians are now.

[Stern] Thank you very much, sir.

No New Plans To Be Presented

TA0203181991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1740 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The coming days are expected to be full of hectic political activity in Jerusalem. With only seven days remaining before Secretary of State Baker's planned visit to Israel, the race has begun.

In normal days, political discussions are held. At tomorrow's cabinet meeting, Minister Yuval Ne'eman will demand that an urgent political debate be held in anticipation of Baker's arrival. Ne'eman, whose positions are coordinated with Ministers Refa'el Eytan from Tzomet and Rehav'am Ze'evi from Moledet, will attempt to formulate more up-to-date—in his words—principles, differing from the Israeli Government's peace initiative of 14 May 1989. The right-wing ministers believe that this plan, which was appropriate for the unity government, has no room in a narrow right-wing government.

Inside the cabinet, there is Minister Sharon who opposes the plan for elections in the territories. In the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry, however, it is stressed that the Israeli Government's political plan consists of the 14 May initiative. No political debate is apparently to be held before Baker's arrival. Baker cannot expect to hear new plans or amendments to the Israeli initiative. The only issue on the agenda is the 14 May initiative.

At the same time, the vital points have undergone a slight shift of emphasis: The matter of elections in the territories has been relegated to second place, and the prime spot—from Israel's viewpoint, at least—has been taken over by the demand to end the state of war with the Arab countries.

Peres To Present Labor Peace Plan

TA0303105391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Mar 91 p 10

[Report by political correspondent Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] Labor chairman Shim'on Peres intends to present a new party peace initiative to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on his coming visit to Israel, it was learned yesterday.

Labor's political bureau is to begin debating and formulating the initiative this evening, taking into account developments following the Gulf war.

Peres, who will present the bureau with his own plan, made intensive efforts over the past week to get the support of most bureau members, despite the objection of his arch rival Yitzhaq Rabin to certain parts of the proposal. Labor doves and hawks have expressed their opposition to Peres's plan.

Peres stressed yesterday that the plan he will present to Baker will not be only his own, but one agreed on by the party.

Peres's proposal hinges on getting Jordan back in the peace process and setting up a Palestinian-Jordanian federation, or confederation, as well as reaching comprehensive regional security and economic arrangements under the auspices of some international forum.

Rabin, who is abroad and will not attend today's bureau meeting, continues to stick to the national unity government's peace initiative of 1989, which is based on a step-by-step procedure toward elections and autonomy in the territories.

However, sources close to Peres note that Rabin, who has been shown Peres's plan, does not object to it in its entirety, but only to certain clauses. They stress that the plan is flexible and does not rule out alternatives such as steps supported by Rabin.

A group of doves led by MKs [Knesset Members] Hayim Ramon, Yosi Beilin, Amir Peretz, Hagay Merom, Nawaf Musaliha and Avraham Burg, as well as Nisim Zvilli, will convene today to decide on their own peace proposal, which is based on granting the Palestinians self-determination and is conditional on the Palestinians' and Arab states' recognition of Israel and its right to peace and security.

The doves say that Israel should conduct talks with a Palestinian delegation including anyone who opposes terrorism and recognizes both Israel's right to exist and the relevant UN resolutions. Peres, on the other hand, refuses to talk to anyone from the PLO.

MK Moshe Shahal intends to present the bureau with his own peace initiative, which focuses on a Palestinian state. Shahal hopes to get the doves' support for his plan.

Moledet Urges Clear Cabinet Position

TA0103122791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Moledet is demanding that the cabinet make it clear to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his visit that Israel will not hand over parts of western Greater Israel or the Golan to foreign rule. Our correspondent cites Ya'ir Sprinzak, chairman of the movement, as saying that the cabinet must demand that the residents of the refugee camps be resettled in Arab countries as part of the rehabilitation of the region.

Foreign Minister Levi Views Peace Process

TA0403070691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Dan Shilon—live]

[Text] [Shilon] The cabinet should present U.S. Secretary of State James Baker with a new plan for the promotion of peace, according to a cable to Jerusalem from Israeli Ambassador in Washington Zalman Shoval. Foreign Minister David Levi is now on the line. Good morning, sir.

[Levi] Good morning.

[Shilon] Has such a cable indeed been received?

[Levi] I do not know where this information comes from. Cables arrive every day, but I cannot confirm a letter or a wire in which such suggestions were made. I am able to say, however, that in the cables we have recently received, our ambassador in Washington reiterated stands Israel has presented and adhered to, and which now stand a better chance than ever.

[Shilon] Without divulging the contents of this cable or another, can you tell us whether the Israeli ambassador in Washington and, perhaps, Israel's other friends there have said that it is time Israel presented new ideas in anticipation of James Baker's visit to Israel?

[Levi] We are used to this kind of talk. Whenever Arab rejectionism becomes apparent, Israel is expected to come out with new plans.

[Shilon] Are you confirming the existence of such talk?

[Levi] No, no. I am saying that such talk has existed for years, but all those who expect that with the arrival of the secretary of state we will agree on some plan and immediately proceed to launch it are mistaken. It is possible, however, to lay the foundation for understanding, coordination, and joint action, and this is what I am striving for with all my heart. Yesterday's cabinet debate also indicated this desire, which is shared by the entire cabinet.

[Shilon] When you spoke of laying a foundation, were you referring to a foundation different from that of the Israeli Government's latest initiative?

[Levi] No, no. The Israeli Government's political initiative has not been tried. We should remember that it was endorsed by all the local parties concerned, but its weakness lay in the attempt to use the back door to introduce the PLO, with all its demands, into the process. Right now, after the recent events and in view of the PLO's conduct, there are numerous elements, with the United States at their head, who are saying plainly that the PLO cannot be a partner to negotiations, which is what we have always contended.

With the exclusion of the PLO from negotiations, and with the removal of the various patches which had been added to the initiative both in Tunis and Cairo as a result of the PLO stance, the initiative now stands a good chance of being accepted. What else will the Palestinian population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have if it misses this chance? They saw that Saddam Husayn's way has failed; that the world would reject his way of destruction; and that the PLO way, which led them from bad to worse, has also failed. For the first time, Israel is offering them the opportunity of a lifetime: to be recognized as partners for negotiations on Israel's political plan, over the plan's outline. As I said, they are being given their first chance ever to be Israel's partners. They had nothing like this under any other regime. And, at the same time, we now have a golden opportunity, also the first ever, to launch direct talks with Arab countries to be conducted on a face-to-face basis and without preconditions. This is the spirit of the coalition members' present attitude.

[Shilon] To what ministers and to what lies were you referring in yesterday's cabinet meeting when you said that there will be no sacrificing of ministers who keep spreading lies about you?

[Levi] I do not know what was reported, and I never hide behind the veil of anonymous remarks. I can merely state that the government has a policy and resolutions. Furthermore, it has guidelines, according to which I act. My action has been within the parameters of these guidelines, and I have not deviated from them one inch. It is true that I have an ardent desire to promote the Israeli Government's initiative. There are apparently people who think that having an initiative is all very nice, but there is no need to promote it. These same people are probably fatalists who say: There is no one to talk with, and there is no need to talk; let us sit quietly and see what happens. This is a simple recipe for political disaster.

[Shilon] You said to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir: You should have insisted on the truth vis-a-vis all those who have been maligning me. Did you say this because the prime minister may not have given you proper backing?

[Levi] I do not wish to seek anyone's patronage; I do not need anyone's personal favors. There is a government policy, and he himself said that I have not deviated from it one inch. I do not need anyone's testimony to that effect, although in these strange times, even this testimony is apparently necessary vis-a-vis those ministers who have been trying to hurt and stab, as they say. I have been trying to do everything I can to promote the government's policy, and it would be only natural for the prime minister to rise, pound his fist on the table, and tell all those who are not playing by the rules, those who have been trying to spike the government's guns: No more; you will not succeed. He should say it in the clearest way possible. Yesterday, I was glad it was done.

[Shilon] Did the prime minister pound the table yesterday?

[Levi, laughing] Look, what is.... [changes thought] In our slang, pounding the table....

[Shilon, interrupting] You said it.

[Levi] Yes, yes. No need to argue about words. In our slang, pounding the table means doing something unequivocally. It is a custom here. You may imagine I want people to start breaking tables, but what pounding the table would mean is: No more; this is the government policy; the foreign minister is doing his best to promote it, and those who are making these derogatory remarks are going against the government's stands; it is impossible and I will not allow it.

[Shilon] Mr. Levi, yesterday—the same day the cabinet debate was held—the Labor Party Bureau convened to discuss what Shim'on Peres defined the new idea for regional peace. We have heard that at almost the same hour, your own advisers Uri Oren and 'Aliza Goren met with Shim'on Peres' former political adviser Nimrod Novik. Is a new Levi-Peres axis being forged?

[Levi, laughing] Nothing like that. First of all, I do not know. Second, we are not yet living in a time when people are not allowed to talk. I do not know what relationship exists between these people, and I would be very wary of watching over every adviser, every aide, every assistant lest he talk, or of giving them a list of people with whom they are forbidden to talk. I do not favor this approach; we must avoid such Kafkaesque attitudes. To sum up, they are all Israelis and they are allowed to talk. No one talks in my name, however, and I certainly have no axis except the Likud, in the framework of which I operate. I do not pay attention either to evaluations of my performance or to manifestations of suspicion. I grew up in this party and I represent it loyally.

[Shilon] Nevertheless, do you have an opinion about Shim'on Peres' regional peace plan?

[Levi] Look, I am not out to grade anyone here. Every political party has its own outlook, but matters of buffer zones and other security issues should be worked out by professionals in ministries, such as the Foreign and Defense Ministries. It is natural for a large political party to offer its views, and it has been done by European countries, by the United States, and the Soviet Union, all of which will put their initiatives down in writing for the benefit of all the concerned parties. Therefore, while this is a wholesome process, it should be remembered that the Labor Party's plan talks of ceding Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and it does not matter whether it proposes confederation or an independent state. The moment you make an allowance for foreign rule in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip you will hardly be able to tell them afterward what to do and what kind of regime to establish. Anyway, the principle of giving up Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is part of that plan, which naturally completely opposes the Likud's point of view.

[Shilon] Mr. Levi, another question. We have heard that you are on your way to the airport and to London.

[Levi] True.

[Shilon] For what purpose?

[Levi] Since the British foreign minister's visit here I have maintained a very good relationship with him, including consultations and an exchange of messages. Presently, England is very important. The prevailing stands in Europe are completely opposed to Israel's position, and some countries, such as France and Italy, lead the process toward an international conference.

[Shilon] Are you leaving for England to thwart this attitude?

[Levi] England does not support this stand, and it has coordinated with the United States on this issue. To a great extent, England's stand is favorable to us, and we should strengthen the ties between the two countries, as well as bilateral relations, in anticipation of the upcoming debates.

[Shilon] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister David Levi. We wish you a good trip.

[Levi] All the best. Thank you.

Levi's Moderate Image Called Political Move

TA0103004191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 91 p 2

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "Levi Is Gambling on His Career"]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi is currently undertaking the greatest gamble of his political life. His senses tell him, apparently, that the masses, including those belonging to the Likud Central Committee, are sick of the prime minister's negativist attitude and yearn for a message that addresses peace as a heartfelt aspiration and not as a nightmarish curse.

Levi has no allies among the Likud ministers, and the Knesset members that support him can be counted on one finger. Housing and Construction Minister Ari'el

Sharon has had numerous clashes with the foreign minister, while the moderate Likud ministers, who perhaps could normally identify with his compromising tone, despise Levi personally, and never forget their partisan accounts. Levi's real rival is the prime minister.

At this stage, Levi has not flinched from a frontal and almost overt battle with Shamir. The day before yesterday, Shamir warned the Likud faction against the dangers of the upcoming political process, and several hours later Levi was already again attacking those who get into a panic when the word peace is mentioned. Shamir does not like or respect his chosen foreign minister, but, aware of his fractious and quarrelsome nature, has refrained from putting him in his place. The important decisions, assert the prime minister's circle of intimates, are made around the cabinet table, and at this table, Yitzhaq Shamir's opinion is nearly always the decisive one.

It is said that there is nothing behind Levi's newly moderate image but political calculations. Nevertheless, it is he who has issued the most moderate statement regarding negotiations with Syria, by refusing to set a precondition precluding the return of the Golan Heights. He was the first to shrug off the shock of seeing Palestinians climbing to the rooftops [to cheer Saddam Husayn's Scud missiles], while stressing the simple truth that these were our interlocutors, and there were no others. Yesterday, when anwering a correspondent's question, Levi exhibited surprising flexibility regarding the government's peace initiative, by stating that if the Palestinian interlocutors expressed opposition to holding elections, the alteration of this clause was open for discussion.

Meanwhile, the contract the Likud has taken out on Levi is just about to be signed, but the blow may possibly come from a totally different direction—the U.S. Administration. Even though the the administration's plans for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict are only in an embryonic stage, one can already surmise that there is a wide chasm between these plans and the most moderate positions Levi is capable of offering. When the dispute between the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government becomes apparent, the Likud ministers will attack Levi as the man responsible for the deterioration.

The cabinet ministers do not take Levi seriously. The minister, admittedly, does have many faults, of which one of the most prominent is his inclination to talk too much, up to the point of greatly undermining the importance of his political statements. People also claim that his political doctrine is unorganized, and indeed Levi occasionally surprises his closest advisers by giving public statementa on ideas that were never discussed in the inner sanctum, as was the case yesterday with the possibility of canceling the elections. Nevertheless, his voice now, in contrast to the state of affairs a few months ago, is an island of sanity in a government that following the destruction of the Iraqi Army now considers peace the most significant threat to Israel's security. It is said that in the kingdom of the blind, even a man with one eye is king.

Arens on Peace Plan, Direct Talks With Saudis

TA0303141591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1335 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Nati Zilberman and unidentified reporter of the Israeli Television Service in Arabic, in the Galilee Bedouin village of Bir al-Maqsur on 3 March—recorded]

[Text] [Arens] Our ideas were expressed in the Israeli Government's peace initiative of May 1989. This is our stand, and this is our initiative. It contains four clauses; each of the four is an important point. I can see no better way to advance peace in our region. If only the Arab world would respond to this initiative, there is no doubt in my mind that we would quickly progress toward peace in the region.

[Zilberman] The Arab Television correspondent asked: Is there a fear of renewed U.S. pressure on Israel through an international conference?

[Arens] You may have read this in the newspapers. I have not heard this from any official element of the U.S. Administration. The U.S. Administration has adopted the Israeli Government peace initiative.

[Correspondent] President Bush has mentioned the international conference in relation to the peace process. Is there a fear that this is an attempt to press Israel in this direction?

[Arens] I do not feel any pressure. To the best of my knowledge, the U.S. Government supports our peace initiative, and I hope that the Arab world will support it, too.

[Zilberman] As for the Saudi suggestion, according to which there would be negotiations with the PLO without 'Arafat, Defense Minister Arens said that he would rather get this offer directly.

[Arens] If the Saudis have ideas to advance peace, they had better call us, not through an intermediary, but directly, face to face. We would be happy to talk to them.

[Zilberman] An agreement was attained today concerning the release of U.S. POW's held by the Iraqis. At the time, there was talk of the possibility of linking this issue with the release of our POW's from terror organizations in Lebanon. Do you have any news on this issue?

[Arens] I am sorry to say that at this moment I have no news. This is an issue that will not leave us alone. Our POW's and MIA's are held by terrorists. We are doing everything we possibly can to bring our boys back home.

[Correspondent] Has Israel not asked to tie the release of U.S. POW's with ours?

[Arens] We are demanding that our soldiers be released all the time. Nevertheless, if anyone thought that the release of U.S. POW's could be held up until they found our POW's, he was mistaken.

[Zilberman] Does the release of U.S. POW's open some sort of new hope concerning our POW's?

[Arens] I hope so. I cannot be sure.

On Missile Threat, Lebanese Army

TA0303163191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Report by 'Idan Miller]

[Excerpts] Immediately after the cabinet session today, Defense Minister Moshe Arens toured the north of the country. [passage omitted]

On the security situation, Arens said he had not heard all the details of the cease-fire agreement signed today or the terms the United States presented to the Iraqis, but, he added, we can rest assured that the well-being of Israeli citizens is guaranteed.

[Begin recording] [Arens] We know that President Bush declared that the cease-fire must include the termination of missile firing at Israel. I presume that this was also secured. It remains only to be hoped that the Iraqis will live up to their undertaking.

[Miller] Do we have any assurances that this will indeed be the case?

[Arens] The guarantees we have are the fear that I assume exists in Iraq of the resumption of battles, which no doubt would be the case should they dare launch a missile against Israel. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Glancing at Lebanon, which is not more than 3 km away from the town of Shelomi, Arens said that there are indications that the Lebanese Army is taking action to prevent terrorist acts and the launching of katyushas toward Israel. This is definitely a positive development, he added.

Shamir, Levi Working Papers for Peace Criticized

TA0103101891 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 1 Mar 91 p 2

[Commentary by Shim'on Schiffer: "And Shamir Does Not Change"]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem will be U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's first stop next week on his tour of the countries in our region to examine ways to reach political arrangements after the war against Iraq.

Baker has never visited Jerusalem. Israel's friends in the United States failed to convince him to stop over in Jerusalem on one of his tours during prewar preparations. And now that he is coming, there are some in Jerusalem who raise an eyebrow and ask: Why is Baker coming to Jerusalem? After all, there is no linkage between solving the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In any event, Shamir's and Levi's bureaus have been busy for some time preparing working papers on the peace process and ideas to be presented to Baker.

A review of these papers leads to one interesting conclusion: They contain no reference to a solution of the territorial aspect of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In other words: Shamir and Levi absolutely refuse to address themselves to the formula of territories for peace as a condition for an arrangement between Israel and its neighbors.

Foreign Minister Levi has found himself a target for some of his colleagues, who are calling him "the Likud's Shim'on Peres" behind his back. All Levi has done, however, is present several general ideas concerning his willingness to discuss an end to the state of war through direct negotiations to be held concurrently with discussions with Palestinians who would be elected in the territories.

Poor Levi has not yet sold a single inch of Greater Israel, yet his friends—headed by Ari'el Sharon—have already rushed to label him a dangerous figure, one who might force Israel to make commitments to the United States on irreversible moves.

In Shamir's bureau—without coordinating with the defense and foreign ministers' bureaus, of course—the cabinet secretary and the Prime Minister's Office director general have prepared various position papers. The documents are based on the premise that even with the end of the war against Iraq, nothing in our region has changed; we are still dealing with totalitarian regimes whose credibility is close to zero; and there is no chance of setting up a reliable regional system. [passage omitted]

There are no differences between the ideas formed by Shamir's and Levi's bureaus concerning the Palestinian issue. The Palestinians are being offered the autonomy plan based on the initiative for elections in the territories.

Peres Discusses Bringing Palestinians to Talks

TA0103155791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1445 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, Labor Party chairman, by 'Amiqam Rothman and Yo'el Nir—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Rothman] The question of including Jordan in various solutions and agreements has reemerged.

[Peres] Yes, but the question I ask myself is not what would be good for Jordan or the Palestinians, but what would be good for the State of Israel. I have no doubt that, from Israel's viewpoint, a combined Jordanian-Palestinian solution would be preferable to either a

Jordanian or a Palestinian solution. If we are indeed required to give up some of the territories, I believe that we should cede them in return for demilitarization. Genuine, long-range demilitarization can be attained in a Jordanian-Palestinian framework. I will tell you this: Even today, I would be willing to make certain concessions, rather than give up on peace altogether. [passage omitted]

[Nir] Mr. Peres, there were reports several days ago that you received messages from King Husayn through two U.S. congressmen. In these messages, King Husayn was supposed to have said that he can bring the Palestinians to the negotiating table. Is it true?

[Peres] I do not know about the messages, but I do know about the reports, and I will certainly discuss no reports. There is no doubt, however, that if you compare the position of King Husayn to that of the Palestinians, you will find that Husayn gained more than they did. In addition, the king's image is now much more nationalistic and, shall we say, pro-Arab than before the recent confrontation. I have no doubt that today, if you compare Husayn to 'Arafat, you will find that while Husayn may have gone in the wrong direction, 'Arafat went so far that he will find it difficult to return from the spot he has reached.

[Nir] Regarding bringing the Palestinians to the negotiating table, would you put your bet on King Husayn or the Egyptians?

[Peres] I do not think that the Egyptians can bring the Palestinians, unless we agree to negotiate with the PLO. The best delegation, from Israel's viewpoint, would be a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation—and there is no gamble in that, merely a sensible choice. Moreover, it would be a sensible choice in which we are interested in the results.

[Rothman] Knesset Member Shim'on Peres, thank you very much.

UK's Major Offers Assistance in Peace Talks

TA0203192091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has received a message from UK Prime Minister John Major. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that, in the message, Major says that Israel's courageous stand during the war undoubtedly contributed to the coalition's grand victory over Iraq and to Israel's security.

Now, writes Britain's prime minister, we must start thinking about an arrangement between Israel and the Arab countries, and about solving the Palestinian problem. John Major says that his country is ready to extend every required assistance in this sphere.

Report Details 3 Mar Cabinet Debate

TA0303165291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman—recorded]

[Text] [Gutman] Jerusalem's political decisionmakers are in a frenzy, in view of the upcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State Baker. This was expressed in exchanges of jeering remarks in the cabinet session today. Newly appointed Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi of Moledet headed those who demanded that changes be introduced to the political plan. He called for the cancellation of the 14 May 1989 political initiative and asked that a clarification be made that Israel will not give up an inch of territory. Tehiya's Yuval Ne'eman seconded him, and claimed that the political plan is no longer relevant.

[Ne'eman] There were ministers who claimed that the plan was accepted for the love of the plan. I still believe that the plan was accepted as a compromise between the Alignment and the Likud.

[Gutman] The third opponent was Minister Ari'el Sharon, who called on Israel not only to abandon its previous initiative, but also to change its attitude and stop its policy of negotiations without preconditions. According to Sharon, Israel should present in every discussion its preconditions, the main one being a demilitarization of the Middle East.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens replied to him sharply, and said: This is the biggest mistake we could possibly make. This would backfire on us. According to Arens, he who presents preconditions will lose. These were the ministers that expressed their opposition.

All the other ministers supported Israel's initiative. David Magen and Moshe Qatzav called for adherence to the guidelines. Qatzav told Ne'eman that the plan is good and has nothing to do with the Alignment.

[Qatzav] This plan was not forced on the Likud. It is not a compromise with the Alignment. It is a plan that was accepted when a Likud member—Yitzhaq Shamir—headed the government. It was endorsed by the Likud's Central Committee. That is why I believe that it is a good plan, and we should act to see it implemented.

[Gutman] Tzomet's Minister Refa'el Eytan, who many expected would join those demanding the holding of a political debate, said that now is the time to present a solidified and united political line.

Interior Minister Arye Der'i said that his party, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], joined the government after Prime Minister Shamir pledged to advance the political process. The issue of peace, in the eyes of SHAS, is a matter of life and death, and this comes before everything else, including Knesset seats. Der'i said at the discussion. According to Der'i, without a peace process, the government has no right to exist.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 3 March adds that in the session, Der'i said that "whoever is trying to torpedo Levi's efforts to advance the peace process is in fact torpedoing the whole government."]

Many of the ministers described the meeting as heated, mainly because of the remarks exchanged between David Levi and Yitzhaq Shamir.

The foreign minister said: I will be clear; there are cabinet ministers who follow the thesis that lies, if repeated often enough, become the truth. Levi called on the prime minister to stand up and state the truth. You know very well that I do nothing outside the government's guidelines, Levi said. Will I be attacked for my activity for peace while cabinet ministers and the prime minister stay silent? This is a theater of the absurd, Levi said.

[A similar report on the cabinet session by YEDI'OT AHARONOT's political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, aired on Tel Aviv Educational Television at 1500 GMT on 3 March adds: "The foreign minister is perhaps the most dynamic minister. He stresses today that Israel is ready for direct negotiations with Syria, without preconditions. He stresses the Syrian issue. He also pays attention to the Palestinian issue, saying that perhaps certain details of the government's initiative, such as elections, should be given up.

["Minister Levi will go on to examine his positions as early as tomorrow. Tomorrow morning, Foreign Minister David Levi is going on a 24-hour visit to the United Kingdom, where he will meet his British counterpart."]

Not less excited was Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Atypically, he spoke at length, mainly in reply to Levi: Do not pay attention to media reports; the media are nothing, Shamir said, and suggested that Levi pay attention only to what the politicians write to him.

Nevertheless, there was also friction between the two. When Shamir said that the government will remain united as long as everybody remains faithful to the government guidelines, Levi got up and yelled: What do you mean by as long as. Am I a stranger here? I am defending the Likud and government principles just like you do, Levi said.

Shamir replied: All I wanted to say is that everyone is committed to unity. Shamir also called for political unity on the basis of the guidelines. It is impossible to change the government guidelines every other day, he said. The prime minister agreed, however, that a debate will be held in the cabinet later this week.

To conclude today's cabinet discussion: Three ministers believe that the peace initiative should be changed; the rest do not. Three frictions exist between cabinet ministers. Two heated speeches were made, and one political debate will be held soon. These are the symptoms of what is known as the political process.

Some Iraqi Mobile Launchers Reportedly Still Intact

TA0303182991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Sources in Israel have said that all 30 fixed missile launchers that Iraq had stationed in the west and south of the country have been destroyed without a single missile being fired from them at Israel. All the missiles were launched from mobile launchers, and it is believed in Israel that some of them have remained intact even after the battles ended. No clear determination has been made whether the Iraqis have operational chemical missiles or not.

The same sources told our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that the Iraqis have managed to send most of their front-line planes to Iran. The Iranians were surprised at first, but later cooperated with the Iraqis. It is estimated that Iran will not return the planes and will consider them as a part of the payment for the $30 billion Iraqi debt.

Frayj, Sinyurah Comment on War, U.S. Role

TA0103003691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Two prominent Palestinians in the territories, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and the editor of the east Jerusalem daily, AL-FAJR, Hanna Sinyurah, expressed hope that the end of the war would usher in a new chapter in the history of Arab-Israeli relations. This report is from Dani Gur-Arye.

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] Both Frayj and Sinyurah received with relief the news of this morning's suspension of hostilities in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Hanna Sinyurah called the war a military and political earthquake. While the military battle has already been decided, he said, the political consequences were still unfolding.

[Sinyurah] The military earthquake is that it's a defeat for Iraq. Yet, the political earthquake—its precautions up to now are just starting. The war has again made the Palestinian issue to be the top issue on the world agenda. It has also offered new opportunities for either starting a new chapter of relations between the nations, or continuing on the same track which is: in another three to five years another Arab-Israeli war or another confrontation in our region.

[Gur-Arye] The Palestinians, said Sinyurah, were finding themselves in the losers camp at the conclusion of the war. But, he said, both losers and winners will now be faced with reconstructing the region. Both Frayj and Sinyurah expressed reservations about whether the U.S. would act with diplomatic evenhandedness after the war, but neither ruled out the United States as a mediator.

[Sinyurah] We have not to love the United States. Certainly there is antagonism toward the United States especially from the Arab countries and the Palestinian population, yet the United States cannot be discounted. It is a superpower. It is the power that at the moment is the most dominating in our world. We have to find out if this power which talks about a new order, about justice, really means justice or is it going just after its own interests.

[Gur-Arye] Sinyurah also expressed concern over the treatment of Palestinians in Kuwait, now that the amirs have gone back to government in the emirate. In a statement reminiscent of Saddam Husayn's prewar announcements, he said the new regional settlements will have to include a more equal distribution of wealth, as well as programs for economic cooperation in the region. [end recording]

Labor Party Trying To Consolidate Postwar Stands

TA0103012091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1610 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Text] A Plan for Regional Peace. That is the name of the new peace plan currently being prepared by Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres. The plan is based, of course, on the party's platform and its major tenet is territorial compromise. It will be published in the near future. To help in formulating the plan, Knesset Member [MK] Peres set up a political team comprising MK's Yosi Beilin and Moshe Shahal together with university professors and several former top Foreign Ministry officials. MK Peres recently tried to harness his fellow party leader, MK Yitzhaq Rabin, to formulating a joint proposal with him. He first submitted the main points of the plan for Rabin's perusal and then also met with him privately. Next Sunday, even before James Baker arrives in Israel, the Labor Party Bureau will convene for a political debate to consolidate the party's positions prior to the political process expected in our region following the end of the war in the Persian Gulf. What does the Labor Party have to say today? The Labor Party says that Israel must immediately move to exploit the allied victory in the Gulf in order to further peace between Israel and the Arabs. The Labor Party denotes great importance to the neutralization of the threat posed to Israel by Iraqi missiles and by its nonconventional arsenal.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 2200 GMT on 28 February reports that "Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres calls for opening negotiations with the Palestinians within a month, in the framework of a second session of the Geneva conference under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union. Peres' proposals are included in a special political document he will present to the Labor Party Bureau on Sunday. The draft of the document is kept secret, and was transmitted to Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin, currently in Venezuela, for his reaction."]

New Housing Units To Be Built in Golan Heights

TA0403064491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Excerpts] On the eve of Secretary of State Baker's visit to Israel, the Construction and Housing Ministry announced that 1,000 additional housing units will be built in the Golan Heights. Golan Heights settlers said in reaction that the step is an appropriate answer to Baker's and David Levi's ideas on the possibility of negotiations with Syria. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from the north:

[passage omitted] Right now, the Construction and Housing Ministry is building 500 apartments in the Golan Heights township of Qatzrin. [passage omitted]

For those seeking other political facts, or perhaps symbolic gestures, it will be said that for the first time since 1967, the Golan Heights are being connected to the Galilee with bonds of reinforced concrete. While Bailey bridges are still the only kind on the Jordan River, the state has invested 25 million shekels in the construction of a 300-meter-long cast concrete bridge begun last week which will stretch from Gadot Police Station to the Upper Customs House.

Spokesman Confirms Air Raid on 'Terrorist' Targets

TA0303124191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported that planes attacked a concentration of terrorist vehicles north of al-Zahrani, a distance of 8 km from al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa. The targets were destroyed and all the planes returned safely to their base.

Defense Regulations on Palestinian Labor Noted

TA0303094391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Mar 91 p A1

[Report by army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The defense establishment has decided to continue forbidding Arab residents of the territories to enter Israel without written permission from the Civil Administration, and to permit only the entry of organized laborers who are registered with the labor exchange.

Last Friday, the defense establishment debated the continuation of the curfew and the employment of Arab workers from the territories inside Israel. This followed demands by many employers to permit the residents of the territories to return to their jobs in Israel. The defense establishment decided to gradually increase the number of laborers from the territories in Israel, while continuing to ban them from working in major population centers.

These are the decisions that were adopted by the defense establishment regarding the residents of the territories:

1) Arab residents of the territories will be allowed to enter Israel only if they have written permission from the Civil Administration, for medical treatment, or for personal business.

2) The number of Arab residents permitted to work in Israel will be increased. All the workers must be registered at the bureaus operated by the employment services. The entry of independent laborers will not be permitted and the ban on staying overnight inside Israel will be maintained.

3) The ban on Arab residents of the territories working in Tel Aviv, the Dan District, and around major cities will continue.

4) The entry of private vehicles belonging to residents of the territories into Israel will be forbidden. Their entry will be authorized only with a special permit from the Civil Administration, for purposes of work or special business. Permits for the entry of vehicles will only be issued in rare cases.

5) The employment of Arab workers from the territories on night shifts at Israeli factories, which obligates them to stay in Israel overnight, will be examined. The employment of workers from the territories in Elat will also be examined, as that, too, requires them to sleep over.

6) The number of people allowed into Israel over the Jordan River bridges will be increased; however, entry will be restricted to residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the ban on the entry of visitors will remain in force.

The defense establishment has also decided to permit easing several restrictions in the regulations governing the entry and employment of residents of the territories in Israel.

7) Buses bringing workers to Israel will be allowed to pass through under the close supervision of the Civil Administration, the police, and the security forces. Taxis carrying workers will be allowed in beginning next week.

8) In the future, residents of the territories will be permitted to work in Tel Aviv and the Dan District, but only in big factories and with the permission of the Civil Administration.

Sources in the defense establishment stressed that there is no intention to make life hard for the residents of the territories. They added, however, that life in the territories, unlike life in Israel, had still not returned to normal. "We have no intention of allowing residents and workers from the territories to run wild in Israel, as they did just before the Gulf war," the sources said, adding that "from now on the workers and their employers will be closely supervised, and anyone with a security or criminal record will not be allowed to work in Israel."

The defense establishment plans to have 50,000 workers from the territories employed in Israel and setting out for work in an organized manner. The police and the security forces will scrupulously monitor the workers, carry out spot checks, and make sure that the workers return to the territories before evening.

Police Warn Jerusalem Arabs; Pro-Iraq Rallies Cited

TA0203184791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Report by Gil Litman]

[Text] Two cases of arson took place in east Jerusalem's Arab neighborhoods over the weekend. Last night, a car was set on fire in Wadi al-Jawz, not far from Mount Scopus. The car, which belongs to the UK Consulate, was slightly damaged. A graver arson incident took place early this morning, when unknown persons broke into the al-Quds taxi offices in the Shu'fat neighborhood in north Jerusalem. They poured flammable liquid over the office and set it on fire, gutting the place.

With the end of the Gulf war, the Jerusalem Police commanding officers yesterday held a special discussion, emphasizing security in Jerusalem. It was decided that, despite the return to an operational routine, the police will maintain a deployment that will allow the force to resume instant alert in unusual circumstances.

Yesterday, after the Muslim prayers on Temple Mount—which, by the way, were held in utter calm and order—we heard Jerusalem District Police Commander Hayim Albaldes discuss the police deployment in the upcoming days:

[Begin Albaldes recording] Our deployment has been stepped up. We are prepared to forestall any unusual occurrence, and if such an event does happen, we will react with utmost firmness. We will not permit stone throwing, we will not allow the pre-war situation to return. The Jerusalem Police will react harshly to any such occurrence. [end recording]

And, indeed, yesterday the police again warned the residents of east Jerusalem's Arab villages. Police vans equipped with loudspeakers warned locals that if riots or attacks are attempted, curfews will be enforced at once. The warning was aimed in particular at the residents of Sur Bahir, where two Molotov cocktails, which caused no damage or casualties, were hurled at a border police patrol.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 2 March reports that "another Molotov cocktail was hurled about one hour ago at an Israeli car on the Pat-Gilo road in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Gil

Litman reports that the bottle shattered and ignited on the road, but caused neither damage nor casualties." The report adds that "this is the fourth Molotov cocktail thrown in Jerusalem since the end of the Gulf war."

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 2 March reports: "Support rallies for Iraq and Saddam Husayn were held today in Nabulus and Tulkarm. In Nabulus, about 100 youths flew PLO and Iraqi flags and called out slogans about the two people's common fate. In Tulkarm, ten masked individuals marched with an Iraqi flag.

["Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a group of some 40 Israeli women, members in the Women for Peace movement, brought food to the al-Jalazun refugee camp today. The army prevented their entry, and they staged a demonstration on the camp's outskirts."]

AL-QUDS Journalist on Postwar Palestinian Goals

TA0103121191 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Mar 91 p B2

[Article by Da'ud Kuttab, "a Palestinian journalist for the daily AL-QUDS," entitled: "Mixed Feelings"]

[Text] Our five-year-old daughter was shocked when she saw Israeli soldiers outside our home in Jerusalem the morning after President Bush declared a cease-fire in the Gulf. "You told me that the war was over," she said, "so why are those soldiers still here?" My daughter's naive question perhaps expresses the wider reality the Palestinians faced the morning the Gulf war ended. The Palestinians had high hopes that Iraq would put an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

To be fair, the Palestinians did have several days to muse over information that the war was progressing in Iraq's favor. Some were shocked when the news of the Iraqi retreat came, because the lengthy battle between Iraq and the allied forces had raised their hopes. Naturally, the Palestinians were very concerned about the effect the Iraqi withdrawal might have on the Palestinian problem, but they were even more concerned about the effect of the Gulf war on Iraq itself.

The Palestinians continue to support Iraq and its leadership staunchly, not because of Kuwait, but because of Iraq's heroic stand against 30 countries. This feeling was reinforced when many realized that the U.S. goal is not the liberation of Kuwait, but the destruction of Iraq. To many this corroborated what the Iraqis have claimed all along: that the United States is not concerned about Kuwait, but rather about Iraq and its independent way of thinking.

Naturally, the Palestinians are still worried about how the situation will affect them. The prolonged curfew, which has been relaxed somewhat, must be lifted completely. The number of laborers allowed to work in Israel has not yet reached 10 percent of what it was before the war broke out.

Last week, Mamduh al-'Akr, another Palestinian leader, was detained. Newspapers and some of the offices of Faysal al-Husayni's Institute of Arab Studies were closed under orders issued by military elements. This led many leaders to believe that Israel wants to use the war as an excuse to deliver a blow to the Palestinians.

On the political scene, the Palestinians believe that Israel, the United States, and part of the West will try to find an alternative leadership to the PLO. There are no indications that this will succeed. The popular Palestinian support for the PLO has increased, despite its loss of support in Europe. As far as the Palestinians are concerned, the PLO represents their views. In fact, many believe that the PLO should have done more. Several extremists wanted the PLO to take part in attacks on Western interests around the world, a request the PLO had not anticipated.

It is reasonable to assume that there will be Israeli and Western attempts to bypass the Palestinian organization. This will not be new to the Palestinians, who have always insisted that the PLO represent them, because it represents their national aspirations to statehood. Rejecting the PLO will be perceived as tantamount to a refusal to deal with the issue of Palestinian national rights.

Israel has never agreed to talk to the PLO or its supporters in the territories. Israeli prisons are full of Palestinians, many of whom are held without trial or charges. They are simply guilty of supporting the PLO. More than 1,000 Palestinians were killed and tens of thousands wounded during the three years of the intifadah because of their support for the PLO and Palestinian nationalism.

Obviously, the Israelis will try to crush the intifadah, and there will be attempts to toss the Palestinians unreasonable political offers. Nonetheless, after a while, pressure from the Arab world and even Western elements will force Israel to hold more serious discussions with the Palestinians. It is reasonable to assume that there will be more serious efforts—without going into what will happen then—to solve the Palestinian problem; this will be a direct result of the Gulf war.

In some illogical way, the Palestinians will be better off because they will have nothing to lose anyway, especially now that Iraq has lost the war.

Some maintain that the results of the Gulf war will only be felt several years down the road. The important consequences will be felt among the Arab youth. Almost 70 percent of the Arab population are children. They will grow up with a feeling of defiance toward the West, unlike the current generation, which grew up with a sense of helplessness and the memory of the 1967 defeat in which three Arab countries lost their land and honor because of Israel.

Arabs Urge New Chapter in Region With Cease-Fire

TA0103111891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Mar 91 p 18

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Kafr Manda—Israeli Arab leaders yesterday welcomed the Gulf cease-fire and expressed hope that it would start a new chapter in the history of the region.

"We opposed the war from the start on the grounds that you can't make peace with war," Muhammad Zaydan, spokesman for the National Committee of Arab Council Heads, said.

"The war has proved this. After all the killing and mayhem, they are going to sit down at the negotiating table," said Zaydan, who is also chairman of Kafr Manda Local Council in Galilee.

"We hope that the new order being talked about, especially by the Americans who headed the coalition, will take into account a solution to the Palestinian problem, which is at the heart of the Middle East's problems," he said.

Overall, Israeli Arabs welcomed the cease-fire and the lifting of emergency regulations throughout the country after six weeks of living under the threat of Iraqi missile attacks.

There was disappointment in some quarters, however, with the Iraqi army's humiliating defeat and the failure of Saddam Husayn to fulfill his "heroic" pledges.

Local residents said it was "sad and disquieting" from the humanitarian point of view to see pictures of Iraqi soldiers surrendering and kissing the feet of those they had been fighting. But these same residents stressed that many Arabs, and Palestinians in particular, had supported Saddam because of his promise to solve the Palestinian problem, but not because of his threat to destroy Israel with chemical weapons.

Most Israeli Arabs, they said, still regard the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and hope that the organization would have a role to play in future peace talks, despite its support for Iraq in the war.

Crown Prince Says Iraqis Must Change 'Attitude'

PM0303131591 London BBC Television Network in English 2230 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Interview with Jordanian Crown Prince Ibn-Talal Hasan by correspondent George (Alakiah) on 1 March; from the "Newsnight" program—recorded]

[Text] [Hasan] I think that you don't change the attitude of the Iraqi people by decapitating its leadership. This was an option that was stated at one moment and restated today. People have to change their attitude and their perceptions and, given the chance, I'm sure the Iraqi people will grasp the opportunity to rebuild.

[(Alakiah)] Grasp the opportunity to rebuild. Grasp the opportunity, perhaps, to oust Saddam Husayn?

[Hasan] Well, it is up to the Iraqis to evolve. I have always believed in evolution rather than revolution. It may, of course, once again be premature. It is up to the Iraqi people to choose.

[(Alakiah)] Why should sanctions be lifted? I mean we're talking about peace and security in the region. It was Saddam Husayn who threatened it.

[Hasan] I think, as I said to friends, talking about the future, there's every possibility that the Iraqi people, who are dynamic and have contributed a great deal to civilization in this part of the world, will be able to get on with contributing to stability. Let's not personalize it forever.

[(Alakiah)] If you were to be able to give advice to Saddam Husayn, what would that be?

[Hasan] To consider the future of the Iraqi people, which I am sure is the concern of everyone in this part of the world today.

[(Alakiah)] How do you think that future will be best served by Saddam Husayn?

[Hasan] I think that the future would be very difficult to consider if the Iraqis are to be regarded as an international pariah.

[(Alakiah)] If there were a substructure to try Saddam Husayn, would you go along with that?

[Hasan] Well it would be a remarkable new legal precedent in international law if we were to try everyone we disapproved of in this part of the world or in the world as a whole. I think the list would be unending.

[(Alakiah)] Does that mean you don't want to see Saddam Husayn tried?

[Hasan] What I am saying is that you don't personalize issues.

[(Alakiah)] Will Jordan accept Saddam Husayn here?

[Hasan] I said: Jordan-bashing has been so much involved for the last five months I don't think we could afford more of the same. [sentence as heard]

[(Alakiah)] Would you describe the president of Iraq as anything but a defeated and discredited leader?

[Hasan] I think, in terms of Arab political mythology, he will be considered a man who stood up to the North, if you will, to the Western alliance. But then, talking Arab mythology... In pragmatic terms, yes, Iraq has suffered a tremendous battling [as heard] as a result of this war.

Parliamentarians Voice Support for King's Message

JN0303120091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn's nation-wide address Friday has drawn support from public and private organisations in Jordan whose representatives pledged allegiance to and support for the Jordanian leadership's domestic and foreign policies.

We are behind Your Majesty, and we support your call on the Arabs to forego their differences, show tolerance, rise above the tragedy and embark on a new Arab-Arab era with greater hope and confidence, and Ahmad al-Lawzi, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament in cable to King Husayn.

With reference to the King's call for enhancing the process of democracy and parliamentary rule, al-Lawzi said that democratic rule was the most ideal system to be followed in pursuit of progress and reconstruction.

Al-Lawzi voiced the Upper House of Parliament's absolute support for the King's policies in the new era and said that these policies were based on Jordan's mission and founded on the concept of Arab unity whose dignity and the interests of its future generations should be safeguarded.

The Lower House of Parliament Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat sent His Majesty a similar cable voicing the House's total backing for the King's endeavours to heal rifts among Arabs.

The dangers and the catastrophes the Arab Nation is facing at the moment are part of the ongoing attempts by the foreign powers to impose what is called "the new world order" which entails hegemony and old colonial rule in a new form, 'Arabiyat noted.

He said that the coming battles were more dangerous for the Arabs than those of the past and required an all-out campaign to unite Arab ranks to stand in the face of the brutal onslaught directed on the nation and to abort the enemy's ambitious designs, 'Arabiyat noted.

He said that Jordan's support for the Iraqi people aimed at helping them to repel all attempts to impose hegemony on Iraq and also to protect Arab interests.

'Arabiyat voiced the House's congratulations to the King on the 35th anniversary of the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Another cable came from the Arab Youth Forum, which said that the King's address to the nation, reflected the King's determination to safeguard the Arab identity and sovereignty, and underlined the Arab Nation's rejection of all forms of tutelege, humiliation and oppression.

The cable said that the Arab Youth forum highly appreciates the King's stand vis-a-vis the looming dangers and supported his call for the Arabs to join hands and transcend the past tragedies at the start of a new era in Arab history.

In his address to the nation the King appealed for reconciliation and said Jordan was opening its arms wide to all those who wished to establish friendly relations based on mutual respect and cooperation.

Ba'th Party Hails Iraq's 'Fight Against Evil'

NC0303165491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Amman—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Jordan has issued a statement in which it hailed Iraq's heroic soldiers and their fight against evil and the forces of aggression in the biggest fight in history. The following is the text of the statement:

It is the mother of battles where the brave and zealous sons of Mesopotamia confront the fiercest hateful power of oppression, which used fake international legitimacy as a pretext to carry out its conspiracies to destroy proud Iraq's capabilities and its progressing military and scientific might; thus exploiting the fact that the poles of world balance abandoned their responsibilities and accepted the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist single-handed policy and hegemony over the fate of world peoples.

The homeland called you for jihad, martyrdom, and sacrifices for the sake of your pride, salvation, and the future of your nation and sons.

Falsehood may have one round, while justice has many. The keys of paradise are in the hands of the faithful. Your proud Iraq continues to carry the message it has promised you. You have heard the voice of its victorious struggling leader Saddam Husayn calling on you to swoop down on the dens of aggression in all places. Be with God for God is with you and will make you victorious. The aggression is ongoing. The battle and the fight are long and need more patience, perseverance, and sacrifices.

Union, Group Leaders Cable Saddam on 'Victory'

NC0403102891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] Amman—Leaders of Jordanian popular, unionist, professional, youth, and women organizations have sent the following cable to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn:

At a time when steps are being taken to finalize cease-fire with the forces of the evil and aggression alliance, we, as Jordanian popular, unionist, and professional organization leaders, following the 28 February 1991 great Arab rally, express to you our appreciation of the great victory over the forces of the aggression manifested in the armies of about 30 great and industrial countries and financed by Arab oil wealth. If the recent aggression on Iraq was the peak expression of the crusaders' hatred toward our nation's ambitions and accomplishments as represented by proud Iraq—people, Army, leadership, and faith—then it is the best proof of this nation's need for continuous action to achieve the final pan-Arab objectives of unity, liberation, and progress.

Your excellency, as we congratulate you and the Iraqi people on the great victory over the enemies of this nation following your legendary steadfastness and fighting, we reiterate on this occasion our confidence in your unique leadership and ability to proceed with the sincere march through struggle, building, and sacrifices, with the support of honorable and good powers in this nation. Victory is from God.

Various Organizations Voice Support for Iraq

NC0403115191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Mar 91 p 2

[By Musa Hawamidah]

[Excerpt] The leaders of Jordanian unionist, popular, professional, youth, and women's organizations, as well as the delegation of Arab popular, professional, and unionist organizations in Iraq issued a joint statement on developments in the Arab arena.

The statement pointed out that the battle is not yet over. Rather, it has started again and requires pooling all capabilities and revolutionizing the Arab street.

The statement stressed that Iraq, under its historic leadership and its struggling and faithful leader Saddam Husayn, fought the mother of battles in defense of all Arab and Islamic holy sites. It has also honorably faced the fiercest onslaught against the Arab and Islamic nation, and the filthiest aggression led by the United States and its ally, Zionism. The Atlantic countries and all those hateful to the Arab and Islamic nation joined this aggression. This fierce onslaught was aimed at our nation, land, people, history, heritage, and culture. The leaders of this aggression planned to destroy Iraq's economic, military, and cultural capabilities, and to obstruct its progress, thus preventing it from becoming a strong power that would frighten the criminal Zionists, who usurped our Arab land. Despite the weapons of destruction and the barbarity of the aggressors, which numbered more than 30 countries, our people in Iraq remained steadfast against this aggression, brought double retaliation to the invaders, and made their intrigues back-fire. It is enough honor for Iraq that it was able to thwart the plans of the aggressors to destroy Iraq's power, fragment it, subdue it, and subject it to their evil will. Proud Iraq, thanks to God, kept its head high and its dignity preserved. For this, Iraq made the dearest sacrifices. In the mother of battles, which Iraq had promised you, it was able to thwart the plans of the United States, its allies, and its agents. The mother of battles proved that the Zionist entity is not far from the reach of Iraqi Arab punishment. Moreover, Husayn and al-Sijjil stone missiles were able to shatter the sick Zionist dreams. In the mother of battles the glorious Iraqis exposed the lies of the criminal murderers in the United States and its allies with regard to human rights and respect for international law.

The statement said that the crimes of the aggressors and their psychological warfare against Iraq cannot conceal the incapacity, failure, and frustration the U.S. Administration is feeling.

The statement added that by supporting Iraq, its victory is a victory for all the issues of our Arab nation, and chiefly the Arab's central issue.

The statement called on steadfast Jordan and the Arab nation to side with Iraq on the road of jihad.

The statement praised Iraq's position—Iraq which has always pioneered to defend the Arab nation, its pride, and its dignity.

The statement was signed by pharmacist Taysir al-Humsi, doyen of pharmacists and president of the doyens' council; and Engineer Muhammad Tahir al-Hayyali and Khalil Ibrahim from the Iraqi delegation. [passage omitted]

PLO's Qaddumi Visits, Meets Foreign Minister

NC0203155591 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Amman, 2 Mar (PETRA)—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri received at his office this morning Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and reviewed with him the current state of affairs.

Delivers 'Arafat Message to King

NC0203165491 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Amman, 2 Mar (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today.

During the meeting, Qaddumi relayed a message to his majesty the king from his brother Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the speech His Majesty King Husayn addressed to the people and nation. The message contains thanks and appreciation to the king for the position taken by his majesty the king, in which he stresses the need to work seriously to achieve a just political settlement of the Middle East conflict, with a view to realizing Palestinian aspirations and ambitions.

Qaddumi also conveyed to his majesty the Palestinian leadership's appreciation of the call made by the king for reviving our regional Arab order and overcoming the effects of what has befallen the homeland and the nation as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Qaddumi described what was contained in the king's speech as an expression of the courage, political wisdom, and pan-Arab responsibility that have marked the positions of the Jordanian leadership under all circumstances.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the political adviser to his majesty the king, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Baghdad Radio Reports King Husayn's 1 Mar Speech

NC0103220491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has reiterated the Jordanian people's support for their brethren in Iraq. In a speech today, he urged the international community to deal seriously with the Palestine question. He said: We would like to affirm to the world that we are committed to working for the achievement of a just and lasting peace which serves the national rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil, headed by their right to self- determination.

He also called for the establishment of inter-Arab relations based on fear of God and on mutual trust and loyalty.

Seven Relief Supply Trucks En Route to Baghdad

NC0203173091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Seven trucks loaded with medicines, medical supplies, and foodstuffs left Amman for Baghdad today. The convoy was organized by the Arab Emergency Health Committee for the Support of Fraternal Iraq. The committee said it is still collecting in-kind and cash donations for Iraq.

Red Cross Asked To Aid Palestinians in Gulf

NC0303163891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Mar 91 pp 1, 14

[Excerpt] Amman—A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has said the government is following with concern the situation of Jordanians in Baghdad and Kuwait in order to become acquainted with their conditions there.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that the Foreign Ministry has received reports on the condition of Jordanians in Baghdad and Kuwait following the recent events there.

The source affirmed that the government is making great efforts to spare our Jordanian sons any incidents or problems that may affect or harm them in the Gulf states.

A meeting was held in Amman yesterday between officials of the Palestinian Red Crescent and a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], who is currently visiting Jordan to discuss the conditions of the Palestinians in Kuwait. A responsible source at the Palestinian Red Crescent told AL-DUSTUR that the Red Crescent had requested the ICRC representative to extend necessary aid, including medicine and foodstuffs, to Palestinians in Kuwait, and help them overcome their difficulties there. He added that the ICRC representative promised to meet this demand during his forthcoming visit to Baghdad and Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Editorials Urge New Era of Arab Cooperation

Unity 'Pan-Arab Duty'

NC0103205591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Mar 91 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Restoring the Unity of the Arab Ranks is a National and Pan-Arab Duty"]

[Text] Now that the war has come to an end; that brave Iraq has emerged victorious, healthy, and strong militarily and politically, and that the outline of a new dawn has appeared over the region—a dawn that was predicted by His Majesty King Husayn from the beginning—new duties have arisen, and we in Jordan, as well as all honorable people in the greater Arab homeland, should work hard and carry out these duties.

The first of these duties is to patch up the rift or the serious schism in the body of this nation and put an end to this weakness in Arab solidarity and in unity of rank and position.

Our nation has lived through difficult and fruitless years, the last 6 months of which were the most difficult and serious for our nation and for the future of its generations.

The foreigners have managed to sow the seeds of division and fragmentation in our nation, causing serious successive collapses. As a result, the phenomenon of regional and local retraction has prevailed over the pan-Arab and unionist trend, and our pan-Arab and fateful issues and the higher Arab interests have also been harmed. Consequently, we lost much at the political, economic, developmental, military, social, and cultural levels, and our situation and positions have become weaker and more humiliated. How else can we explain some Arabs' support for the enemies against the brothers?

How can we explain the silence over and even the acceptance of foreign domination of our lands, waters, and Arab and Islamic sanctities? How can we explain the silence over the destruction of a fraternal Arab country like Iraq, and over attempts to annihilate its people by the covetous invaders without the Arab countries supporting it?

We hope, however, that this blurred chaper of the history of the nation will be turned over, and that a new era of light and unity of ranks will begin, so that this nation can restore its strength, impregnability, and capacity to remain steadfast in the face of the greedy, who want to dominate its sovereignty, lands, and wealth, and so that it can stand up and take it upon itself to revive its glory once again in order to contribute to building a fruitful civilization for the Arabs, Muslims, and humanity.

It is time to overcome the local and regional reaction for the sake of the Arab awakening plan apart from any form of dominance or foreign interference.

It is noteworthy that His Majesty King Husayn is playing a leading role in restoring real Arab solidarity that can repulse dangers theatening this nation and lay a strong groundwork for solving all Arab problems and differences within the Arab home.

Therefore, we should give priority to the higher Arab interests over any regional or local interests, just as Jordan did from the beginning, when it Arabized the command of the brave army—a step that represents the glorious national and pan-Arab struggle, and which is the torch that brought about the light of democracy and public liberties in Jordan and the region.

It is important for the Arabs to begin a new brilliant era of detente, integration, cooperation, and unity of ranks and position in order to achieve progress, solve all their problems in a just manner, and guarantee all their rights.

Nation Must Rise Above 'Grudges'

NC0303110791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Mar 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Let Us Start a New Era for Our Nation"]

[Text] With shrewd Arab insight, a pure Arab heart, and a faithful, clear conscience, His Majesty King Husayn has called on Arab and Islamic nations to begin a new chapter in the life of this nation. He urged it to herald a new dawn that beckons on the horizon in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis and its pan-Arab disaster, which affected Arabs and Muslims, destroyed what our nation had built, and for whose sake our nation offered sacrifices for a long time.

His Majesty King Husayn spoke with a clear vision of the future—a vision that rises above the wounds, bitterness, grudges, and hatred; which looks forward to the future after the curtain has fallen on the last chapter of the details and memories of this tragedy; which renounces grudges and hatred; and which rises above rancor and mutual blame in order to learn useful lessons and derive a strong will and conviction to build a regional Arab order based on reconciliation, understanding, and rapprochement.

The Gulf crisis represents a dark era in our Arab history. The colonialist forces tried to disrupt the Arab character and our Islamic values, and sow the seeds of hatred among the sons of the one nation. These attempts will, however, fail to deal a crushing blow to destroy this nation and wipe it from history. This nation, which has all the factors for progress, can bury hatred as well as the past, and emerge from the disaster to end doubts and suspicion and lay the groundwork for tolerance, brotherhood, and loyalty to the aspirations of our nation and its future generations.

Let this nation be as it was—a nation of progress and will, a nation that is capable of renouncing hatred and covering its wounds, a nation that can establish Arab-Arab relations for a new Arab era, and a nation that can build the future and develop our regional Arab order in accordance with facts that enable it to understand our problems and deal with the challenges facing our nation.

The first basis of the new Arab era should be a pan-Arab awareness that our Arab region is the first target of the new world order, which was drawn up by the colonialist forces that want to dominate it and exhaust its energy and wealth. These forces came to the region through an Arab crisis, which they have turned into an international crisis, and exploited all the military and psychological forces to destroy the pillars of our states and the Arab spirit and personality and cause a deep schism among its ranks. They will continue their efforts to further deepen that schism in order to achieve their goals in spreading their hegemony and colonialism.

Shall we remain captive to our self-seclusion, regional retraction, and foolish fragmentation, or move toward the future and turn the results of the crisis into a determination and a will to pool Arab ranks and heal the wounds in order to lay the groundwork for a better future for our generations?

His Majesty King Husayn poses these questions to his nation as he rises above the wounds and looks to the future without looking backward to the bloodshed and tears that resulted from the crisis. He also urges the restoration of confidence in our nation and safeguarding of its values, beliefs, and human message.

What we should first do at this difficult stage of our Arab history is to rise above the hatred and grudges, and restore confidence in ourselves, in our realistic vision, and in the firm fact that this nation is one; and that despite all the ordeals and disasters, it will remain the nation of the Arabs and Muslims. Pan-Arab ties are stronger than any trends toward regional extremism or attempts to renounce principles, history, heritage, and doctrine.

With the heart of one believing in his nation's message, principles, and sublime ideals, His Majesty King Husayn emphasized that this patient, steadfast country—which suffered most after Iraq and Kuwait, and was besieged and heavily burdened and weakened by what largely exceeded its capacity—did not bear a grudge toward anyone, nor did it lay the blame on any party, because it realized that that was the price it would pay for adhering to its principles and freedom of decision, and maintaining its position within this great nation.

Over and above all, Jordan will continue to open its arms wide to all those who wish to establish friendly relations with it on the basis of mutual respect and cooperation and the same degree of warmth and honor with which it is dealing with others. The sons of this country, nurtured on pan-Arab orientation, morals, and tolerance, will continue to hold their heads high and will bow to none except Almighty God.

We in this country—leadership and people—have the right to be proud that we had clear stances and views on the crisis right from the start. We realized and warned of the consequences if the occupation of Kuwait continued, and if the settlement of the issue exceeded the Arab framework and entered the international arena. We did not stop at warnings, but also persistently exercised our duty to the end in a bid to prevent the catastrophe and contain the conflict. We were thus prompted by the desire to maintain the higher pan-Arab interests. The painful results came to prove the soundness of our warnings, and to enhance our credibility, sincere intentions, stands, and principles—from which we will not deviate.

Today, and out of concern for the nation's causes, and with the same vision and spirit, King Husayn has asked the whole world to view the Palestine question with the same criteria it has applied to the question of Kuwait. He emphasized our commitment to work for the attainment of a just and lasting peace that guarantees the Palestinian people's national rights on their national soil, foremost being their right to self-determination and to their representation in any peace process to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. For it is unacceptable that the issue of Kuwait be solved on the basis of international legitimacy, while the Palestinian issue remains outside the framework of this legitimacy. We do not think any Arab or believer in justice would accept any disregard of an issue such as this that will continue to be the focal point of dispute and instability in the region and the world.

Jordan has adopted its positions and built its policies according to its principles and on the basis of democracy. We are proud that this democracy offers a model for our Arab brethren toward strengthening the national and pan-Arab fabric and laying down the landmarks of a bright future for the Arab generations.

Confident that our Arab nation is closer to cohesion and cooperation than suggested by the recent crisis, and that it can triumph over the factors of division and fragmentation, we believe that democracy and popular participation can preserve the pillars of our pan-Arab and cultural existence, which will guard us against pitfalls and safeguard the nation's dignity and rights.

This is King Husayn's message to his nation. It is the first light he strikes in the darkness of the disaster, and with it he lights the road toward the future with full resolve, confidence, and sincerity.

Role in New World Order Assessed

NC0303161691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Mar 91 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Security Council Must Be Saved From U.S. Control!"]

[Text] Now that the pretext of international legitimacy has been dropped with Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the Kuwaiti Government, and after the fraternal Iraqi people have endured great suffering due to the U.S. aggression in the name of the United Nations, the Security Council must regain its moral dignity and the respect of peoples and nations after having become, over the past seven months, a toy in the U.S. Administration's hands.

If we fully realize the evil intentions harbored by the United States in cooperation with its two principle allies in the Security Council, France and Britain, against our Arab nation and Iraq in particular, then the other two permanent members, the Soviet Union and China, must take the initiative and put an end to the U.S. arrogance and disregard for the international community and attempts to impose whatever it wishes on it.

The Soviet Union and China have been very indulgent. They even accepted all the oppressive resolutions taken by the Security Council against Iraq under the pretext of international legitimacy and the Kuwaiti issue. Why does Moscow and Beijing allow Washington, London, and Paris to continue their political blackmail and impose impossible conditions on Iraq, which has stressed its sincere intentions toward the peace process?

Perhaps, the Soviet Union is aware of that more than others, due to its contacts with Iraq that resulted in accepting to withdraw from Kuwait.

Why does the Security Council continue to blindly accept the U.S. draft resolutions? Why does the Council suspend a number of its sessions on reaching a cease-fire awaiting a signal from Washington? Why does the economic blockade on Iraq continue although it has accepted all 12 Security Council resolutions and responded to the will of the international society?

During the past period, political dialogue focused on the need for Iraq to accept international legitimacy. A large number of countries, including the Soviet Union, had promised that all will end with Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and acceptance of the Security Council resolutions. It is time now for the international society to respect its honor, values of truth and justice, and peace, which Washington has stepped on.

What is required now is to lift the oppressive blockade on Iraq, call for the immediate withdrawal of the foreign invasion forces from southern Iraq, respect the will of the Iraqi people, and stop interfering in their internal affairs.

Perhaps, the Arab countries hold a historic responsibility now toward the Iraqi people. They must side with them and thwart the evil plans of the United States. The Arabs, who have been committed to the international legitimacy that is now applied to Kuwait, no longer doubt these plans.

The difficult stage the Arab nation is experiencing makes it necessary that we become actually involved in formulating the new world order on the basis of respecting the nation's independence and interests, and preventing foreign intervention in its affairs. The experience of the past months must be a hard lesson from which we learn a great deal.

These days, we hear many statements by the alliance countries and others stressing the need to reach a peaceful solution for the Palestine question. However, we call for caution and awareness in dealing with these statements. They should not be an attempt to absorb the anger of the Arab street now that the double standards of the Security Council and international community toward international legitimacy have become exposed with regard to Kuwait and the Palestine question.

It is certain that this central issue will not find its way to a just and lasting solution that responds to the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, unless the Arabs overcome their wounds and the barriers placed between them by foreign forces. There is no chance for the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights if the Arabs continue to fight among themselves.

Democracy Praised

JN0403102791 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Nation and Its Future: Democracy's the Answer"]

[Text] As the international community is busy searching for a new international order, the Arab World should be equally interested in articulating its own new order in the aftermath of the Gulf catastrophe. The Arab countries and their peoples share many aspirations and enjoy several common, unbreakable ties. There is every justification to formulate a set of new ground rules to govern inter-Arab relations especially in the wake of the failure of the old rules to contain a crisis of the size of the Gulf conflict and resolve it without foreign interference and any sort of bloodshed. There is no other place to begin than from within each and every Arab country. The process has to start with the introduction of operational democracy to every state of the Arab World. Whether it takes the form of a shura council or parliamentary system of government, the main point remains that without consultations with the representatives of the people, there will always be room for wrong decisions that could deal fatal blows to Arabs and their interests everywhere. In retrospect, the failure of inter-Arab dialogue and communication over the Kuwait case can be traced directly to the absence of democratic institutions in the Arab countries. Likewise, the wrong decisions taken by many Arab states vis-a-vis that situation can equally be attributed to the lack of effective democratic systems of government in the countries that were most directly involved in the debacle.

Jordan has been blessed with a thriving democracy ever since the national elections of 1989. The country will enter the threshold of a new era in democratic development when the National Charter is adopted and endorsed by the people in the immediate future. Granted that democracy in the country is still in its infancy stage and that there is a great deal more to be done in order to perfect it before Jordan can be sure of the institutionalisation of its experiment. [sentence as published Nevertheless a beginning has been launched and it has been a promising one. On the foundation of this new beginning a lot more can be expected to be constructed in due course. Jordan's Arab neighbours stand to profit from our experience in this regard. But what is needed, above all, is a realisation by Arabs and non-Arabs alike that the Arab World is not the exclusive property of persons and regimes. Rather, it is the collective will of our masses and peoples that has to be the only source of government, and power in this part of the world.

Paper: Arabs Should Not Trust 'Colonialist' West

NC0303172791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Mar 91 p 16

["Lights" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "We Do Not Trust the West"]

[Text] Anyone who listens to the flow of news on statements by U.S. and European officials on the Palestine question would think that a fierce political offensive had been mounted to lift the oppression on the Palestinian people and implement international legitimacy in Palestine.

We must not believe these movements or statements. We do not trust the colonialist West, the close and sincere ally of Zionism. In fact, the West is launching a propaganda campaign aimed at diverting attention from its barbaric crimes in Iraq. The West aims to absorb Arab hostility, now that it has gathered all its might and pooled all its capabilities and latest weapon inventions in order to turn Iraq into a country of the past century.

We do not trust the West, because leader Saddam Husayn did nothing to make his country deserve all this destructive war. From a strong position, he called for the just implementation of international legitimacy on the Palestine question, just as it was applied to Kuwait. The U.S.-European madness acted to attack his small country from all points of the earth with the purpose of suppressing it and wiping it out of existence.

O Arabs, do not trust the West. They came to us as colonialists and murderers. There is no means to confront their hatred, deception, plundering and pillaging, and revenge for their crimes except by preparing anew to continue the fight and restore the land, justice, honor, and dignity.

They are known one by one. They are known by their crimes. We will never be deceived by their fine, empty words on the rights of the Palestinian people. They have said the same in the past, but reneged upon receiving the "no" signal from the Zionist movement or Israel.

This U.S.-Western diplomatic offensive under the pretext of resolving the Palestine question is nothing but a propaganda campaign to make us forget their crimes at al-'Amiriyah, Baghdad, and Basra and on every inch of the land of dear Iraq.

We will not forget their crimes. We will not forget that this war was to maintain Israel and make sure that a Palestinian state is not established. We will not forget that this war was the war of the Franks; the war to occupy our land, homes, and holy places, and shatter all hopes for a free and dignified life for our people and nation.

We will not forget that the boots of their forces continue to desecrate our land and holy places.

Al-Hirawi Telephones Saudi King, Discusses Gulf

NC0203092891 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi telephoned the Saudi Arabian monarch, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and discussed the Gulf situation following the cease-fire. President al-Hirawi voiced sympathy with all the efforts made to restore sovereignty and independence to Kuwait.

King Fahd responded by saying that Lebanon will remain in the hearts of Saudi Arabia and the Arabs and its support of the independence of states will not be forgotten.

Karami Welcomes Junblatt Resignation Withdrawal

NC0203180391 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Excerpt] In a message addressed to Prime Minister lawyer 'Umar Karami, Minister Walid Junblatt expressed his readiness to go back on his resignation.

In the message, which was read by Prime Minister Karami, Junblatt says: Out of concern for the Lebanese national interests, which call for backing the national accord march and rebuilding a united and dignified Lebanon on the basis of justice in its broader sense through fundamental reforms, and out of my desire to strengthen the national stand at a critical, historic stage for Lebanon and the region, I inform you that I am prepared to withdraw my resignation and assume my national responsibilities within the framework of the executive authority. Please accept my regards.

[Signed] Walid Junblatt

Prime Minister Karami added: As I welcome Minister Walid Junblatt's withdrawal of his resignation, I call on him to return and take part once again in the executive authority in order to cope with the various developments at this critical stage. We need to dedicate all our resources and get involved. [passage omitted]

Hizballah on Iraq Situation, 'Satanic' Objectives

NC0203081091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Excerpts] It is the day of the oppressed, the day on which the earth shone with God's light. It is 1 March, the birth anniversary of the Imam al-Mahdi, humanity's savior who will fill the earth with equity and justice after it was filled with injustice and inequity. May God hasten his honorable advent. [passage omitted]

Hizballah issued a statement on this occasion yesterday. It stressed that the satanic forces are seeking, through force of arms, to impose their hegemony, occupy Muslim lands, and exploit their resources and riches. They are exploiting the Iraqi regime's sin to perpetrate a great crime against our people that will exceed all crimes in human history.

The statement adds: The arch-Satan's primary objectives were revealed when it announced that it wanted to maintain its forces and military machine in southern Iraq in an attempt to perpetuate its occupation of it. It is no secret that the danger is imminent and considerable.

Hizballah's statement continues: To avert this danger, Islamic and Arab people must rob these devils of this opportunity and seek to drive them—compliant and humiliated—from our land. This is the hour of the people who adhere to the logic of confronting the enemy, the people who toppled America's shah, al-Sadat, and Sharon. These people make revolutions and pound the tyrants' fortifications and the idolaters' fortresses. Armies and ruling regimes alone fear the military machine. When the people make a stand, however, they cannot be driven back. No one can triumph over them, neither Desert Storm nor all the world's storms. The battle of the satanic forces in the Gulf was a contest of interests and unconnected to sacred causes, noble objectives, and sincere and just proposals. What made the defeat greater was the existence of a reckless and unwise regime which involved its army in a destructive battle that represented no right nor any goals beneficial to the masses. [passage omitted]

Amal Groups Attack 'Enemy,' 'Agents' 28 Feb

NC0103200091 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] The operations room for the Lebanese resistance groups—Amal has declared that two Amal groups carried out a combined operation against the enemy and its agents on the road between [placename indistinct] and al-Suwayda' at 1120 yesterday. The operation coincides with the sixth anniversary of the Zionist enemy's massacre in which the al-Husayni club in Ma'rakah was blown up and brother leaders Muhammad Sa'd and Salim [name indistinct] were martyred.

Israeli Planes Raid Iqlim Palestinian Position

NC0303112991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Israeli fighter aircraft raided a Palestinian position in Iqlim al-Tuffah at 1230 today. Citing security sources, REUTER reported that two aircraft fired missiles on a base used by the Palestinian Fatah Movement in Rus Rumin. At least four people were injured in the attack.

AP said that the air raid was directed at a position belonging to the Palestinian Anwar Madi group in the vicinity of the Sarba and Humin townships.

AFP noted that this is the first air raid on a Palestinian position lying within the Lebanese Army's operations area. The Army deployed in the area on 7 February.

[Paris AFP in English at 1106 GMT on 3 March in a similar report says that "four fighter-bombers fired around six missiles" at the base in Rus Rumin.]

Premier Asks Diplomats To Adhere to Duties

NC0103153291 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] In a letter sent to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami asks the foreign minister to send letters to the accredited diplomatic missions in Lebanon asking them to adhere to the accepted norms for diplomatic actitivity and to avoid doing things or making statements apart from their duties.

Eastern Sector Resentment Over Deployment Seen

NC0203175291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Excerpt] The political and security situation appears to be unsatisfactory as a result of the insistence of the Karami government on refusing to respond to the national demands made by leaderships and people. The government seeks to put pressure on various sides in suspect ways, whether on Minister Junblatt, or on the opposition forces in the western sector, or the eastern sector's group.

There was practical reflection of these practices today. Security sources told Radio Free Lebanon that the first intervention group and battalions from the 2d Brigade entered al-Ashrafiyah this morning, where, a week ago, the 9th and 5th Brigades were deployed. Sources affirmed that the deployed groups set up extensive road blocks on the various roads and streets and inside the districts of al-Ashrafiyah and areas around it in a provocative and spiteful show of force.

This behavior has created resentment and disgust among the citizens, especially because al-Ashrafiyah alone now contains four brigades, while four other brigades are deployed in the other Lebanese areas from the South to western al-Biqa', including the southern suburb [of Beirut], the two Matns, and Jabal Lubnan.

This surprising deployment has noticeably paralyzed activity in al-Ashrafiyah and made it difficult for cars to move on the streets.

A source in the Eastern sector wondered about the problems in al-Ashrafiyah which suddenly required the introduction of two brigades, in addition to the two already there. The source wondered what crime the defenseless residents of al-Ashrafiyah had committed for them to be subjected to this kind of oppression and practices.

Responsible political sources have considered this irresponsible behavior a continuation of what happened yesterday with the head of the Socialist Party, Walid Junblatt, where armed men stormed the civil administration center of the Socialist Party in 'Alayh, destroyed its contents, and beat up the elements there. These circles noted that what happened yesterday and today are clear indications of attempts to make those boycotting the government and resigning from their posts renege their stands.

The political sources wondered where we stood regarding political and personal freedoms and where we stood regarding what is termed the democratic system which characterizes Lebanon and which our officials always pride themselves in and praise. These political sources said that if the aim is to put pressure on the political officials in an attempt to force them to renege their boycott and resignation decisions, then what have the citizens done to merit oppression, provocation, limitation of their personal freedoms, and prevention from travelling to their work places. [passage omitted]

Army Defuses Two Rockets in South

NC0303180791 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1650 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] On the Lebanese scene, a military source said today that the Lebanese Army defused two Grad rockets in southern Lebanon last night. The two rockets were aimed at the occupied territories. The same source indicated that the two rockets, which have a range of between 18 and 25 kms, were positioned on the outskirts of the village of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah 15 km from the borders on a line very close to the occupied territory in southern Lebanon.

The source added that a Lebanese Army bomb disposal expert defused the two rockets, which were connected to a timing device, one hour before midnight when they were set to be launched.

As of noon today no organization has claimed responsibility for this attempt. Before the Lebanese Army deployed in southern Lebanon, Palestinian fighters claimed responsibility for five Katyusha rocket attacks between the end of December and the beginning of January. The PLO, however, which approved and facilitated the Army's deployment said that there will be no rocket attacks from southern Lebanon. As for the Palestinian bases, these are located approximately 20 km from Zawtar.

The military source went on to say that the Army is in control of the situation in its sectors of operations and that its units are conducting regular patrols, particularly in the areas close to the occupied border area.

In a related development, President Ilyas al-Hirawi affirmed in statements carried by the Lebanese press today that there will no Katyusha rocket attacks from southern Lebanon. Al-Hirawi made the remarks in Beirut in a meeting with the mayors of southern Lebanon. In that meeting, al-Hirawi added: We will not condone the Katyusha rocket attacks which caused two Israeli invasions in 1978 and 1982.

Al-Asad Receives Messages From World Leaders

NC0203204191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1847 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, 2 Mar (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from British Prime Minister John Major on the Gulf crisis in which he expressed his aspirations for working toward realizing a new and permament stability in the Middle East region. In this message, he said it is natural that the countries in the region would themselves decide the future arrangements.

In the message, Mr. John Major stressed cooperation between the two countries.

President Hafiz al-Asad also received a message from Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Marquez, in which the latter expressed his joy and relief over the end of fighting in the Gulf region and Spain's desire to work to restore stability and prosperity in the region, with which it has always maintained ties of cooperation and friendship.

President Hafiz al-Asad also received a message from Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in which he expresses Japan's desire to cooperate for the establishment of true peace and stability in the Middle East.

Progressive Front Urges Rectifying Arab Arena

NC0203175091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front at 1300 today held a meeting under the chairmanship of President Hafiz al-Asad. The Central Command reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the pains and losses inflicted by the war on the Arab nation in general, and on Kuwait and Iraq in particular.

The Central Command expressed regret and pain for what has befallen Kuwait and Iraq and consequently the entire Arab nation. All this could have been averted had the Iraqi regime heeded the Arab and international efforts and calls that aimed to spare Iraq, Kuwait, and the Arab nation the consequences of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the impact resulting from the disregard of the Arab and international resolutions calling for a withdrawal from Kuwait.

One of the significant calls addressed to Iraq was the message sent by President Hafiz al-Asad to the head of the Iraqi regime. The message was clear in enlightening him of the possible results for the continued occupation of Kuwait, in warning him of the grave dangers threatening Iraq, and in charting the path to breaking the deadlock. The message also emphasized Syria's readiness to stand in the same trench with Iraq, should it come under attack after its withdrawal from Kuwait. But the head of the Iraqi regime lent a deaf ear to all calls and closed his eyes to all facts. The head of the Iraqi regime placed the Iraqi Army in the wrong position and led it to a catastrophic situation after having subjected it to the Iraqi regime's wrong decisions and stands in the past.

The Central Command lauded the wise pan-Arab stance adopted by Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad, and his excellency's efforts vis-a-vis the crisis. The Command called for continuing efforts to rectify the Arab situation and overcome the destructive effects generated by the Iraqi regime's policy in the Arab arena.

More Iraqis Arrive Fleeing 'Repression'

NC0203073191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] al-Hasakah—A new group of Iraqi brothers, fleeing the Gulf war's effects, arrived in the al-Hawl camp in al-Hasakah. Syrian relief aid committees received the new arrivals and supplied them with all the necessities for temporary residence. They were also given the necessary medical tests at the camp's field medical center.

The arrivals told the SANA correspondent in al-Hasakah that escapes from Iraq have continued, particularly after the war stopped. They pointed out that, now that hostilities have ended, the regime's organs are devoting themselves to acts of repression against Iraqi citizens. They said scores have been arrested because they rejected the war and condemned the occupation of fraternal Kuwait.

The arrivals praised the services and care extended to them by the Syrian authorities in cooperation with the concerned UN agencies. They stressed that the care and attention shown to them demonstrates the fraternal ties between the Syrian and Iraqi people.

Report Unrest, Demonstrations

NC0303111691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] A fresh group of Iraqi brothers crossed the Iraqi-Syrian border in northeast al-Hasakah Governorate yesterday evening. They fled the oppressive practices the Iraqi people are suffering from in their country as a result of the regime's actions to liquidate opponents to the war and the invasion of Kuwait.

The new arrivals, who were given shelter at the al-Hawl camp on arrival, asserted that the catastrophic war created by the Iraqi regime and its results have the Iraqi streets in turmoil because of the resultant tragedy. The war, they said, promoted the people's opposition which is looking forward to the moment of salvation.

The arrivals told the SANA correspondent in al-Hasakah that the Iraqi people hold the head of the regime responsible for all the consequences of the war which has led to the destruction of Iraq and its infrastructure, in addition to the harm inflicted on the economic and military institutions because of his policy of occupation which brought more tragedies and woes.

Meanwhile, Iraqis said yesterday that the cities of Basra, al-Zubayr, (?al-Samawah), and al-Nasiriyah were the scene of demonstrations against the Iraqi president. AFP cited an Iraqi national as saying that tens of thousands took part in the al-Zubayr demonstration. He added that it was a major demonstration expressing hope that the Iraqi president's regime would end today and not tomorrow.

An Iraqi policeman who crossed the coalition forces' lines said Basra's demonstrators freed the Arab detainees held in prisons by the Iraqi regime. The Iraqi policeman said he did not want the current regime in Iraq. A peasant arriving from Basra said no one knows who holds the reins of power there. He added that the people had taken to the streets.

Commentary: Iraqis Should Bring Leaders to Account

NC0203145391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the catastrophe that has befallen the fraternal Iraqi people, Army, and properties has exceeded all imagining. The destruction and collapse are devastating. What increases the pain and adds to the suffering is that this catastrophe could have been avoided by a little wisdom. The Iraqi leader was given numerous opportunities to rectify his mistake of invading Kuwait. He was given Arab and international opportunities. He had many opportunities to justify his exit from Kuwait before military operations began. However, he insisted on his stubbornness and personally led Iraq to destruction and ruination.

Every caring Arab and friend in the world gave the Iraqi president advice against being dragged into an unequal confrontation that would doubtless destroy what the Iraqis built with their own sweat, sacrifice, and efforts throughout scores of years. The calamitous result is the terrible destruction we see today.

The question the Iraqis insist on asking is: Why are we paying this frightening price for wrong decisions, stands, and belligerence? Had the officials gone along with our opinion, the picture would have been completely different. There would not have been an invasion of Kuwait, or even an invasion of Iran. Iraq would have been in good health; Arab relations would have been in good health; and the Arab nation would have been experiencing its heyday, building its solidarity and making all the preparations for confronting the usurping Zionist enemy.

The catastrophe did not strike the Iraqi people alone but has caused losses throughout the Arab nation since it broke off its march of solidarity and thwarted efforts of loyal Arabs to realize a united Arab stand that would terrorize the enemy and bolster friendly sympathy. The Arabs, like their Iraqi brothers, are hurt and sad. The Iraqi president's singlehanded authority over crucial decisions, whether regarding his war with Iran or his invasion of Kuwait, has set the region back scores of years and allowed the usurping Zionist enemy to reap the fruits of an Arab regression without any effort whatsoever.

Israel today is at the peak of its power and aggression. The Arabs cannot be envied for their state. Zionist maltreatment of the Palestinian people is increasing day by day. How can one therefore remain silent over the one who led the nation to this regression and collapse? Although the fraternal Iraqi people, many of whose sons have been killed and who have had everything they built over scores of years destroyed, are the ones most concerned with learning morals and lessons; determining responsibilities; and bringing to account whoever lead them to the catastrophe, the Arabs also are called on in their turn to learn lessons and morals. The policy of taking risks, gambling, and making crucial decisions singlehandedly has only yielded calamities, catastrophes, and disasters for the nation. It has now become necessary to commit everyone to Arab principles and charters so that the Arabs will not simply collapse.

The Arab nation is no longer capable of bearing collapse and fragmentation. The absence of solidarity means the victory of the enemy; surely solidarity will not be realized unless Arab officials respect Arab principles and charters, discuss among themselves the basic issues, and avoid slipping into dangerous and reckless positions. Had all Arabs without exception taken a decisive stand in the face of the Iraqi president's singlehandedness and openly cut him off if he did not retreat from invading Kuwait, the war would not have taken place, and the fraternal Iraqi people today would not be standing horrified over the terrors of the disaster that struck them without their having had any say in the entire crisis.

Papers Urge Arabs To Learn, Face 'Real' Enemies

NC0103102891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Press review]

[Text] Gentlemen, on the urgent Arab tasks in the coming phase, AL-BA'TH writes a commentary stressing the need for action to create an effective Arab reality. The paper says: Kuwait's tragedy and its negative consequences and the resulting destruction have highlighted the need for Arabs to rise to a stage in which all reasons and causes for the collapse of Arab brotherhood are made nonexistent.

AL-BA'TH stresses that despite the severity of what the Iraqi regime has done, everyone must create the circumstances that would allow them to build themselves up on strong bases to face their real enemies. The paper explains that the Baghdad ruler's adventure has destroyed Arab and Iraqi capabilities and that our Arab people are puzzled by all this, especially since they were looking forward to the day when the Arabs' wealth was used in their pan-Arab battle and to the day when Iraq's achievements were used in the service of the nation's future.

AL-BA'TH says: The disaster is huge and the Arab individual is its victim because of the arrogance of those who dream and think their dreams are the reality. The paper wonders: What has the adventure achieved, and what have those who made themselves custodians of Mesopotamia, the land of history, discovered? Is there anything more painful than the blood that has been shed in light of the Iraqi tragedy?

AL-BA'TH also talks about Syria's efforts to avert the tragedy, and says: Through our leader President Hafiz al-Asad, we in this glorious Arab country, Syria, warned and appealed to the ruler of Iraq not to turn Iraq into a pile of rubble. We called on Baghdad's regime not to risk Iraq's destiny and army. Every Arab prayed that what he sees now had not happened. But, the adventure took place, as if prepared and planned in advance to take revenge for the state of awakening which the Arabs started before this tragedy and this destruction.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: We will not let the results control the Arab future and destiny, because we look to the future with hopeful hearts and optimistic minds. As long as we know that our nationalism is a target and that Zionism is waiting to take advantage of the adventurers, we are required to create an Arab reality that will take from the wounds motivation to achieve the awakening and from the blood and destruction a lesson so that there will be no slaves among the Arabs to the disillusioned ones who are hungry for blood, destruction, and arrogance.

Under the headline "Counting the Losses," AL-THAWRAH says: Now that the Iraqi people are left to call to account the Baghdad rulers, who are fully responsible for the disaster, the bills are open in all directions in the Arab arena and for the nation's crucial issues and its supreme interests. [sentence as heard] AL-THAWRAH explains that the count of material and human losses and the psychological effects of the Baghdad ruler's action is beyond imagining.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Not counting the nation's loss of Iraq—people, army, and potential—at the altar of their ruler's selfish whims, narrow designs, and murderous imperial illusions, the Iraqi people are paying a dear price for the miscalculations of a regime which was not at all interested in the question of Palestine, which was not part of its political and military concern. It was only part of its propaganda concerns, which tried to confiscate the Palestine question and use it as a tool of deception and a cover to justify an Arab country's invasion of another.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Despite all the dark clouds in the horizon, what is certain is that our Arab people will know how to emerge from this situation. As leader al-Asad has said, we will continue to have the ability and the unflinching resolve to stop anyone coveting our land from achieving his goals.

In another commentary entitled "Sources of the Wrong Policy," AL-THAWRAH stresses that the war has destroyed Iraq's economic, vital, and strategic installations, and paralyzed the major part of Iraq's Army, as it has put out about 40 divisions from the battle arena. This, although the war and its results, which were devastating not only for Iraq and Kuwait but for all Arabs, could have been avoided had the Iraqi regime accepted from the beginning the Arab summit resolutions and the first resolution issued by the UN Security Council. AL-THAWRAH adds: Then came the war and the more painful result; namely, the loss of Iraq's power.

The paper concludes by saying: Any weakness of the Arab nation, or even part of it, is in the final analysis an added strength of the Zionist enemy which covets the Arab land. In conclusion, we ask: Was this, then, the reason behind the Gulf crisis and the consequent war?

India

Proposed Resolution Urges End of Food Sanctions

BK0303131491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Excerpts] The commanders of the U.S. led coalition forces in the Gulf and their Iraqi counterparts today held talks at an airfield in southern Iraq about a permanent cease-fire. [passage omitted]

The meeting of the military officials of the two sides took place hours after the United Nations Security Council adopted an American-sponsored resolution imposing eight conditions on Iraq for a definitive end to the hostilities. The resolution gives the United States and its allies the right to use force if Baghdad fails to comply with these conditions. The resolution demands that Iraq free prisoners of war and Kuwaiti detainees, accept liability for all loss, and help spot Iraqi mines and booby traps. It neither declared a formal cease-fire nor did it order Allied troops out of Iraq or lift sanctions against Baghdad.

In the 15-member council, Cuba voted against the resolution, while India, China, and Yemen abstained.

India also introduced a resolution before the Security Council asking that some restrictions against Iraq be lifted immediately on humanitarian grounds. The draft, which has been supported by Cuba, Ecuador, Yemen, and Zimbabwe, calls for the lifting of all measures that prevent dispatch of food to Iraq.

Janata Dal Says Allies Should Leave Gulf

BK0203160891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] The Janata Dal says that the U.S.-led coalition forces should withdraw from the Gulf region to enable it to work out a mutually-acceptable security system. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, the party leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, said India must at this moment restate its West Asian policy which has been traditionally based on friendship and close cooperation with all the Arab nations. The Janata Dal leader emphasized that the Palestinian problem should also be immediately addressed.

Asked whether the National Front government had allowed air corridor to the U.S. planes, he said the permission was for a limited period with no landing facilities.

Bus Used To Kidnap MP's Daughter Recovered

BK0303163491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces have recovered the minibus allegedly used in the kidnapping of Mrs. Nahid, daughter of the National Conference MP [member of Parliament] Professor Saifuddin Soz. According to an official spokesman, the driver and conductor of the vehicle are being interrogated. He said the minibus had put a fake registration number during the kidnapping. The state administration and the security forces are continuing their efforts to secure the safe release of Mrs. Nahid.

The Pakistan-based head of the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Mr. Amanullah Khan, has condemned the kidnapping of Mrs. Nahid. Speaking to REUTER over the telephone from Muzaffarabad in occupied Kashmir, Mr. Amanullah Khan said the kidnapping is completely wrong on humanitarian grounds.

Militants' Release Demanded

BK0203103891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, intensive efforts are continuing to secure the release of Mrs. Nahid, the kidnapped daughter of Mr. Saifuddin Soz, MP [member of parliament]. The kidnappers are reported to have informed some journalists in Srinagar that they will release her only if the government agrees to release some arrested militants by 1700 [1130 GMT] this evening. There is no official response to this. Meanwhile, it has been found out that the green-colored minibus allegedly used in the kidnapping of Mrs. Nahid bore the state registration number of a scooter.

'Pakistan-Trained' Kashmir Militants Arrested

BK0203145091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] The Delhi Police has busted a gang of hard-core Pakistan-trained Kashmiri militants. Three dreaded hard-core militants who sneaked into the capital with the intentions of large-scale killings were arrested yesterday. These militants had plans to blow up the telecommunication center and the television station in New Delhi. Huge quantity of arms and ammunition were seized from the arrested militants.

Congress-I Protests Surveillance of Gandhi House

BK0403102491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Government has instituted an inquiry into the attempted surveillance by two officers of the Haryana intelligence on the residence of the former prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, made it clear in the Lok Sabha today that the center does not have any hand in the surveillance which was noticed on Saturday [2 March] night. He assured members that every possible action will be taken against those found responsible for the action. Describing it as totally unethical and unacceptable, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that center disapproves this practice.

The matter was raised during the zero-hour by Mr. Era Ambarasu, Congress-I. Members cutting across party lines expressed concern over the issue and the opposition demanded that the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] report on telephone tapping be laid on the house and a discussion taken up on the matter.

The prime minister informed the members that the telephone tapping issue is not a closed chapter as the government is looking into all aspects of it.

In the Rajya Sabha today, the agitated Congress-I members forced the adjournment of the house twice in the prelunch session protesting against the alleged surveillances. Mr. Shiv Shanker, who was allowed to speak after some noisy scenes, said the constant suveillance was being maintained at the residence of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and demanded a statement from the government. He said the surveillance of any public leader was reprehensible and against all democratic norms.

Iranian Petrochemical Company To Receive Aid

BK0203131591 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] India has to assist the National Petrochemical Company of Iran, the NPCI, in joint operations, organizing research and development as well as training engineers and technicians. A memorandum of understanding to this effect was recently signed in Iran by its deputy minister for oil Mr. Rahgozar and the chairman and the managing director of the Indian Petrochemical Corporation Limited, the IPCL, Mr. Hansmukh Shah. The two countries have also agreed to explore the possibility of setting up a joint venture in Iran, information sharing, and regional cooperation through an institutional arrangement. As per a training contract the IPCL will give a three month training to 1,200 engineers and technicians from Iran.

State Trading Corporation To Reopen Kuwait Office

BK0103134491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] The State Trading Corporation has been asked to reopen its office in Kuwait immediately. Disclosing this at a meet-the-press program in Madras today, the union commerce minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, said Indian companies have better prospects of carrying out reconstruction work in Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

Iran

President Warns of Region's 'Expansionists'

LD0303181991 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] The world admitted to the resoluteness of the people of Afghanistan, and the Muslim mojahedin of Afghanistan have been able to bring a superpower to its knees with their empty hands. Hashemi-Rafsanjani today, in a meeting with members participating in a seminar of the Shiite Assembly of Afghanistan, while announcing this, emphasized unity among the Muslim Mojahedin of Afghanistan and the elimination of differences between them. He said: The great blessing that exists between us is Islam, and Muslim mojahedin should, by relying on Islam and within its sphere, set aside minor differences and reconstruct their country with the selfless and determined spirit of the people of Afghanistan. They should not place any of their hopes on foreign and alien forces since the latter always pursue their own greed and sinister interests.

In another part of his speech, the president referred to the current Persian Gulf crisis, saying: The latest events in the Persian Gulf showed that the Muslim nations of the region have a lot of enemies who are expansionists looking for opportunities to fulfill their sinister objectives. The recent war, which began with the conspiracy of destroying immense human resources and the reserves of Islamic countries, proved that only the enemies of Islam benefitted from it and that it was not in the interest of either Iraq or Kuwait.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at the conclusion of his remarks, referred to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i's profound interest in Afghanistan's problems and reminded: The Islamic Republic seriously keeps up with the developments and problems of the oppressed country of Afghanistan, and it will continue to make every effort to see that the demands of the Muslim people of Afghanistan are fulfilled.

Before the speech delivered by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi, representative of the vali-ye faqih in the affairs of Afghanistan, submitted a report on the sessions of the Shiite Assembly of Afghanistan to the president.

On Regional Security Structure

LD0303165491 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—The president today described relations with Persian Gulf states as "satisfactory", and said Iran considers the new position of Saudi Arabia as "an effort to rectify past mistakes and open up new chapters in mutual ties."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that the Islamic Republic was looking forward to "sincere and serious" cooperation for restoration of security in the "strategic" Persian Gulf region.

He made the remark in a meeting with Iranian ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi on the eve of the latter's return to the country of his assignment. The president also underlined Iran's "clear and principled" stance towards the recent crisis in the region and said "as Iran has time and again announced, the only plan capable of meeting Persian Gulf security is that involving littoral states alone without the interference of foreigners."

He hoped that regional states would seek a "logical and proper" solution especially in view of their "bitter experience" of the current crisis.

During the meeting Sadeqi reported on the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region as well as on the trend of Tehran-Kuwait ties.

President Receives Kuwaiti Religious Leader

LD0403110791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Hojjat-ol Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Mohri, the religious leader of Kuwait, was received by the president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, this morning. In that meeting, having expressed his gratitude for the hospitality of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the kind reception of the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and the president, he submitted a report on the latest conditions of Muslims in Kuwait, their opposition to the presence of alien forces and decadent Western culture in their country, as well as ways of implementing the constitution in accordance with freedom and democracy, and the reconstruction of that country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his part, having expressed his joy at the termination of the Kuwait Muslims' hardships and afflictions and their resistance vis-a-vis the aggressors, reaffirmed the need for establishment of regional security by the countries of the region, declaring the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to assist the war-stricken Kuwaiti people toward reconstruction of that country.

Velayati Calls For Expanded Ties With Jordan

LD0303181291 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] The new Jordanian charge d'affaires to the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati, submitted a message from the Jordanian Foreign Minister and called for the expansion of relations between Iran and Jordan and cooperation between the two countries toward peace and tranquillity in the region. At this meeting, Velayati also emphasized the expansion of relations between Iran and Jordan and, pointing to developments in the region, called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the region as soon as possible.

Velayati Urges UN Implement Resolution 598

LD0103122691 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, March 1, IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi hand delivered a message from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar here Friday. The message is said to be dealing with the security of the Persian Gulf, full implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 and the role of the U.N. chief in this regard.

Kharrazi told reporters after the meeting that regional security and the latest developments in the Persian Gulf crisis were discussed in the meeting. He said withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf region is the principle position of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that Western forces must leave the region completely after a lasting cease-fire is established.

On remaining in power of regime of Saddam Husayn, he said Iran is of the view that the Iraqi people should decide their future government. He said Iran is after complete implementation of the Resolution 598 including the paragraph 8 which deals with maintaining of security in the Persian Gulf.

Further on Velayati Message

LD0103151191 Tehran IRNA in English 1333 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, March 1, IRNA—A lasting cease-fire aimed at settlement of disputes between the belligerent parties in the Persian Gulf war is a prerequisite to a final solution to the current crisis in the Persian Gulf, Iran's envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi said in a press conference here Thursday. "Temporary cessation of hostilities is not a solution to the current crisis, the Security council should take measures to establish a permanent cease-fire, and settle the hostility within the framework of its resolutions," Kharrazi told reporters.

Asked whether the U.S. has indirectly informed Iran of its measures for the settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis, Kharrazi said Iran over the past few months received messages from the U.S. Administration through the Swiss Embassy in Tehran.

In these messages the U.S. Administration has stated its stances towards the current crisis in the Persian Gulf and goal of its military presence in the region, he said. "We have time and again announced that we oppose presence of foreign forces in the region and Western governments have assured us that their forces would leave the region once the current crisis is settled," he said.

Kharrazi said that Iran believes that security and stability of the Persian Gulf region should be maintained solely through the cooperation of the Persian Gulf states. On the role of the Security Council towards the crisis, Kharrazi said the Council has all the means available to resolve the crisis and establish a lasting peace in the region.

He said that the Paragraph 8 of the Resolution 598 has created the necessary grounds for establishment of peace and security in the region through the cooperation of the Persian Gulf States, far from any foreign interference.

On the Iraqi warplanes in Iran, he said Iran has already said that these planes will remain in Iran until the end of the war and settlement of the current Persian Gulf crisis.

Khamene'i Comments on Gulf War Results

LD0203130791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Imam Mahdi in Tehran on 2 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Now let us talk about the realities. Take a look at what is happening in the world. Take a look at what is happening in the Middle East. Take a look at the way a blustering power such as America grants itself the right to exploit science and technology in order to insult an ummah, that is to say the Islamic ummah, so shamelessly and so brazenly. This is how the world is today. America and its accomplices have in these past months, in particular in the recent weeks, inflicted greater harm against the Islamic ummah then Ghenghis and Hulegu [grandson of Genghis Khan] had ever done. That is to say, this Mr. Bush, with a civilized demeanor and with a neat and clear-cut image, is inwardly no more attractive and charming a character than Ghenghis, Hulegu, Tamerlane, and the world's other infamous aggressors, if not uglier or fouler. His actions were the same as theirs, albeit on a larger scale. He killed everything in sight. He humiliated and disgraced a nation. He turned a country into a ruin. Now he is standing there, foolishly and not wisely—we will prove that—feeling victorious, and that feeling is foolish, not wise, unless the feeling is really not that of victory, but a pretense to that, in which case it would be an insidious and deceitful image. The core of the matter is that the Americans have been defeated here. They were not victorious. Now see that they stand there so shamelessly, talking about victory, while a number of boot-licking and despicable individuals at the head of some countries—which is indeed the greatest affront to humanity and human rights that such gentlemen should be heads of countries—are congratulating them for what they have called victory. But that is indeed no victory. What kind of victory is that?

One superpower, with the help of many other countries—from East Asia, i.e. Japan, to all of Europe and NATO, the countries of the region, and the rest of the weak and humble governments of the world—all of them have put their money and resources together to attack one government and to put pressure on it. Now that they have broken his tanks and spirit—his spirit was already broken—they enter his country and call it a victory. Is this a victory? Is it a victory when all the world gets together, when all the strong and demanding armies of the world spend six months to prepare, spend billions of dollars and use all their resources to defeat one army? Is this called victory?

If they look at the issue correctly, through prestige, it is a defeat for military prestige. It would have been a victory if America came as one country and confronted one country and defeated that nation, not this brawling of the armies of the world. They brought the devices that the world imagined are for a time when all the Earth is embroiled in infighting—the blueprints for Star Wars or this and that blueprint—in a war against the tired and demoralized Iraqi Army. Is this called a victory? This is no victory, this is a defeat! [crowd chants; Khamene'i stops them] Even concerning military prestige.

Politically, it is a great defeat. Today, all the Muslim masses are full of hatred for America and are angry toward it. Let the President of America know that today, among Muslim nations—especially the Muslim countries of the Persian Gulf and the Middle East—he is hated more than any other human being. [crowd chants]

Have you achieved victory politically or militarily? If you could understand, you would know that you have been defeated. All peoples of the world hate them today. Is this a victory? They spent billions of dollars on false propaganda to find a way into people's hearts. These fools have spent billions and nations still hate them. Not just the people of Iraq, the people of the Middle East, Muslim people, Arab people, all of them hate them and are angry with them. Do you think that America can wipe its satanic image from these hearts overnight? Arab and Muslim people have the same hatred that you Iranian people rightly had toward America; the phrase 'Death to America' has come out of your mouths for 12 years. Today, they feel the same. [crowd chants]

They thought of forcing the nations to face a very hard experience, but they failed. It was counterproductive. That is where the element of hope will enliven the nations.

First, let me add a sentence on the subject of Iraq—I will return to the subject of hope later. The Westerners, especially the Great Satan at the head of the Westerners, resorted to the most despicable methods and the most hated acts against Iraq. One's power of speech is unable to define it. It suffices to say that history will remember them as the most savage, the most murderous, the most merciless, and the most aggressive faces of our time. They had better know this.

To say that, however, does not mean that one supports that individual whose rule over Iraq has brought untold misery and destitution for the people of Iraq. That individual is no better than them, if not worse. He has brought a great deal of misery to the Iraqi people since the beginning of his rule. He is responsible for afflicting the Iraqi nation with the eight-year war with Iran. He is responsible for subjecting the Iraqi nation to barbaric and cruel bombings by the Americans, the British, the French, and the others who also showered Iraq with missiles. He is responsible for the wealth of the Iraqi nation going up in smoke. That, unfortunately, is what has happened today. It may well take tens of years of hard work for the Iraqi nation to return to what it was previously. He must be held accountable for causing the massacre of so many Iraqis, whether civilians or military personnel. He was a calamity for the Iraqi people and still is. Shame on the face of a ruler, a person, and a head of state who caters to his personal whims and ambitions but ignores the interests of his people, their wishes, and demands.

Unfortunately such characters are not rare in our region. Such satans are not rare. Such individuals are not qualified to head a group of other individuals, let alone to govern a nation. Yet, they establish an unjust and cruel rule over a nation.

We only support the Iraqi nation when we express the sympathy we have for the Iraqi nation in heart. We are speaking about an aggression that has been committed against a country; that is why we call America and her accomplices ugly. We are not speaking about those individuals whose presence and whose existence caused misery, and who continue to do so. They are a source of misery for any country where they happen to exist. They manipulate their peoples through mendacity and hypocrisy. That is how they subjected the powerless and oppressed nation of Iraq to the such large casualties.

As to hope, I must say this: Today we have an unjust government like that of America. Yes, despite the fact that it is immensely rich and has modern technology with ample resources, this very tyranic, satanic, and aggressive power that arrogantly humiliates the world's nations—this very America—can easily be defeated in our region, in the Islamic region. However, that can be done on one condition: On the condition that the nations—the Muslim nations—take heart in their future. On the condition that they move to stage an uprising with their hearts full of self-assurance and hope.

Fortunately, the nations have indeed awakened, but a mere awakening is not sufficient. An awakening should be followed by action, and it is that awakening that necessitates faith. Of course, all the dominant powers of the world employ their utmost effort to simulate invincibility. America has greatly endeavored to show that it is invincible, and now with the occurence of the Iraqi issue, it will increase such an allegation, out of foolish arrogance and conceit arising from ignorance, and a number of naive persons wish for that. But the truth is other than that. Had the Iraqi regime been dependent on the Iraqi nation, had the Iraqi soldier not felt aggressive and unjust in Kuwait, America would not have been able to defeat the Iraqi nation or even turn back the Iraqi soldier. Yes! When an army is not dependent on its nations but on a tyrannical regime such as that of Saddam, the people do not support a war; the people do not support the fighters; the people pray in their homes for an end to the matter, whether to the benefit of one side or the other. Obviously, such an army is bound to be defeated by America or anyone else. If all nations stand against America, then America will not be able to do a damn thing. [crowd chants "God is great," "Death to America," "Death to Britain," "Death to the monafeqin"—reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization]

To this date, America has perpetrated injustice against this region. It has usurped, it has killed people, it has wreaked havoc, it has hurt the nations, and it will indeed be avenged for all that. Those American leaders who have been delivering rhetoric on regional security should know that such rhetoric will by no means be taken seriously by the nations of the region. They will not heed such rhetoric. Who do you think you are, to come from the other side of the world to determine the duties of the Persian Gulf region? The Persian Gulf region belongs to the nations of the Persian Gulf region. America is not allowed to interfere in any way with the security of this region and its security system. If someone wishes to give America the opportunity to gain a long-term foothold in this region, to give them an open hand to interfere and to take over, then they should know that they will encounter nations who will deliver a blow to the mouths of such rulers. [crowd chants]

Let not the governments of this region commit the great blunder of agreeing with America to its wish to remain in Iraq, or the region, for a while. Nations will confront such a person. The peoples will consider the struggle against such a person a necessity and a (?religious) duty. America has no right to remain in the region or interfere in the affairs of the region. America is an aggressor and must quickly leave the region. It must know that it will pay the price for its action; it is hated by the people of this region and this hatred will grow.

It is vital for nations to strenghthen their faith. Let hearts renew their commitment to God. Thank God that enemies fear you great, brave, and militant people. Superpowers were scared of you and they still fear you. And they must fear you. You achieved your strength and fortitude through your faith in God. Strengthen this faith, stengthen your unity, do not bow to the enemy of God for any price. Islam is dear and magnificent. Glory belongs to the one who becomes familiar with Islam. The ones that were damned were the ones that put Islam aside. Safeguard Islam yourselves, strengthen your faith so that you recognize the values of Islam and make other nations reconcile themselves with Islam. If they turn toward Islam, the hand of all satanic forces will be cut. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Khomeyni Calls For Muslim Unity

LD0103213891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] On the eve of the auspicious birth anniversary of the lord of the age, his holiness the promised Mahdi—may our souls be sacrificed for him—a splendid ceremony was held by the immaculate shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—sanctified be his soul—tonight. In that ceremony, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, having conveyed his felicitations to the eminent leader, all those awaiting the appearance of the lord of the age, and all the world's Shiites, emphasized the need for Muslim unity under these critical conditions. He said: Today, the need for our unity in terms of the direction of our system, in regard to the threats posed by the arrogance to the region, is greater than ever before. Remarking on U.S. objectives in the presence of its forces in the region, he called on the people to maintain their vigilance and foil the plots hatched by the enemies of the Islamic revolution by virtue of unity and solidarity.

Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon

LD0103191291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1203 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, in Tehran on 1 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In this sermon—time is short, and I must be brief—a few issues should be reviewed. The first is the Persian Gulf War and the crisis which lasted for about seven months, which is now apparently in its final days.

We are all, more or less, in touch with the process of events, by way of the media. An aggression was committed by the Iraqi rulers against Kuwait. For various reasons, the United Nations held sessions to remove the aggression. The Security Council continued discussions. Resolutions were issued. The resolutions, one after the other, were ignored and disregarded. In any case, owing to poor resolutions, false impressions, or mismanagement, efforts were made to prevent the outbreak of war and threats in the region. Unfortunately, we all saw that a devastating war broke out, destroyed huge amounts of resources, ruined many towns, destroyed human beings more valuable than any resources or towns, and caused heavy damage.

In the process, efforts were continued to prevent more dangerous stages. If one does not put it down to stubborness, miscalculation might be more to the point. Because of miscalculation, it [as heard] was not observed, and the land war started. The efforts continued, until the last few days when, as we all saw, suddenly, and perhaps somewhat unexpectedly in the opinion of some, some of the resolutions were accepted. The allies said: That is not good enough; they should all be accepted.

Sometime later, the rest of the resolutions were accepted. The conditions were increased and certain interpretations were introduced. As you have all heard and noted, when the Iraqi ambassador said at the United Nations that Iraq accepts all 12 resolutions, more conditions were added, saying that all POW's must be released, bodies must be handed over and, more precisely, the Iraqi Government, by way of its military, must clearly define and pinpoint the areas that have been mined and where there is danger. But nothing was said about the other side, and with the acceptance of the resolutions I listed above, the war became suspended; but it is not a ceasefire.

We all witnessed the actual course of events. We followed and scrutinized every detail, and if there were certain duties in that connection, they were carried out.

I would like to say a few words about the very wise, precise, analytical, and calculated stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As we know, it fell on the honorable leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i [crowd chants] to determine the general policy, which he did clearly. Most of our people heard it in his public speeches. Other parts were conveyed to the [Supreme National] Security Council. Then, in pursuance of this general policy, our honorable President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is the executive officer of the country carried out the necessary appraisals, consultations, and discussions at the Security Council, as is normal, and pursued the same general policy.

That part of Iran's foreign policy during the crisis will become a shining chapter in the history of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [crowd chants] The credibility, accuracy and wisdom of the system became apparent to all statesmen throughout the world, particularly those who somehow played, and play, a part in the issue, through all the comings and goings, contacts, talks and telephone conversations. And now, too, the same state prevails in connection with current and future issues.

As a person who lives in this system, under the umbrella of this government, I feel proud and happy that the country's authorities, at the highest level, make decisions without emotion, with accurate scientific calculations and political analysis, and adopt their stances without consideration for Eastern or Western powers, neighbors or strangers, and freely and clearly state the facts as they perceived them. Those stances are really to be revered.

You saw that the first stance was the declaration of neutrality, which said that we would under no circumstances become involved in any part of the military confrontation, as we consider any involvement to be contrary to our interests, and basically wrong. Because there had been an aggression—and removal of that aggression would require further aggression—which in fact goes beyond Security Council authorization—that is why what could be called aggression, has occurred. [sentence as heard] When the issue has no clear beginning or end, it is not wise for a country to entwine its fate to an unclear, ambiguous, unholy, and un-Islamic confrontation, which has no clear or logical aim. And when some of the friends of this system thought that one should enter the scene and take up arms for the sake of Islam, they were clearly told that that was not the case. They were told that it was basically not a war between Muslims and infidels—it was a power struggle, a materialistic war. That in such a war we could not justify the shedding of even a drop of blood, or the destruction of even a dinar's worth of anyone's resources. This is where the Islamic Republic leadership is superior to others: When making themselves answerable on Judgment Day, while also considering themselves answerable to the public. Before considering themselves answerable to the public they consider themselves answerable to God. If an issue does not involve God, if a war or confrontation does not possess holy leadership, it is basically wrong to call it a jihad.

Did you see this clear and decisive stance? It was analyzed and then interpreted. Iran's stance is not one of indifference. We are truly sorry. Now that we are approaching the last days of the crisis, we are sorry that two countries have been ruined. How long will it take to restore them to their original state? The experts must be asked. Some informed sources said Iraq requires at least 40 years to be restored to its original state. Considering the present global sociopolitical situation, could reconstruction be quickly started and completed in 40 years? In any case, Kuwait and Iraq have been ruined; resources have been lost. As you have seen, the oil resources of the region are burning, for no reason, and will require months to be brought under control. Why? For what aim? Who is responsible? We are truly sorry. The Security Council's expression of regret is a deep Islamic and humanitarian expression of sorrow.

Under these conditions, in the middle of the war, it was declared that we would give humanitarian assistance to the war wounded, out of respect for the UN Security Council. The Islamic Republic Red Crescent was assigned to carry out that task. As you know, some countries sent their aid via the Islamic Republic. Through giving other forms of support for war refugees, and certain other activities the Islamic Republic carried out its correct duty and adopted its correct stance.

These days it is asked: What will become of Iraq's Government and the security of the region? This question is asked in all political circles in the final stages of the crisis. But it was also asked in the early days of the war, and even before the outbreak of the war. The Islamic Republic clearly declared in those days that the security of the region concerns the people of the region. That is a natural fact. The maintenance of security of every land concerns the people who live there. It makes no sense for people and powers from throughout the world to come here and say they wish to maintain the security of the region.

Our honorable president's words were well-calculated and are being said more clearly and accurately now: The presence of foreign forces in the region would, in itself, be a fact contributing to lack of proper security. That is, the presence of U.S. forces in the region would make it impossible for total security to be established. The allies, the Americans, should note that the establishment of security in the region, as stated by the Islamic Republic of Iran, must be based on the decision of the people of the region, and, in our view, on the basis of all the articles of Resolution 598, particularly Article 8. Any security plan attempting to safeguard or maintain the presence of others in the region is rejected by the Islamic Republic. [crowd chants]

We feel sorry for the people of Iraq and Kuwait, those whose lives and homes have been ruined, whose countries were stricken by war. Iran will give them any assistance possible. It has so declared. The details have been decided and will be announced through executive officials. In any case, the people of Iraq and Kuwait and all Muslims are honored and held dear by us and, in accordance with Iran's principles, they will be given aid and assistance, particularly through the lifting of restrictions, as has been announced by the Food Committee.

The usurper Zionist regime, taking advantage of the situation over the past seven months and exerting pressure on the struggling Palestinian Muslims and even the events of the past few days, have always been condemned by us. We have always asked, and will always ask, our struggling Palestinian brothers to continue their struggles, fully assured that Muslims throughout the world are with them. Victory is definitely theirs. [passage omitted]

Meshkini Delivers Qom Friday Prayer Sermon

LD0103203191 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1432 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini in Qom on 1 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] A most important issue is the issue concerning the war. Praise God, the flames of the war have now been extinguished. But it was an unpleasant event and a dangerous one. Its conclusion was detrimental to Islam and the Muslims. [passage omitted]

Infidels were brought to the homes of Muslims. That is the tragedy. Our enemies entered the region from various parts of the world and under various pretexts. That is one issue.

They destroyed all of Kuwait, which was a developed country. They also almost half ruined Iraq, which was another developed country. They set fire to 500 or more oil wells. Now how long will it take to put them out? What did they do in Iraq, those who pursue worldly desires, those who advocate human rights, those who lie and boast, those who always speak of human rights when there is no one more hostile than themselves to humanity. There is no road in Iraq—the wealth of the people—which has not been destroyed, there is no airport which has not been ruined; bridges have been destroyed, factories demolished, state buildings destroyed, women and children annihilated. What were those crimes that took place? God knows. [passage omitted]

It has been estimated, since Saddam began this war and as the result of what he has done, it is estimated that it will take $200 billion and 20 years to bring Iraq back to where it was a few months ago. He brought so much destruction upon his own country and then he accepted everything. This irrational man, this imprudent person did not accept Iran's offer. When it was said that the ground war was to begin, Iran advised him to come and accept it. In the end, he accepted everything and shamefully accepted everything. That is not acceptance. He accepted everything with shame and that was the result of that war which they engaged themselves in.

I fear something else. Putting aside all that has happened and all the losses incurred, I believe that these infidels who have come to the region will be worse for the region than anything that has yet happened. I do not think it at all improbable. Do you believe they will relinquish those oil resources which God has given to such feeble Muslims? Do you believe they will give them up so soon? That they will let them go? Furthermore, the countries around the Persian Gulf have from now on become the slaves of America. They were slaves before, and now they are even more so, since whoever takes the helm in Kuwait will be told by America: Was it not I who gave you Kuwait? Was it not I who presented Kuwait to you? Heaven save them. What happened to those cries, those high-flown ambitions and, I don't know, such things? The most Arab of the Arabs say: The Arabs are united, and the Arab countries will turn the world upside down. How can it be that the most Arab of all the Arabs have surrendered to the infidels in such a massive wave? God Almighty, deliver the Muslims from the infidels. [crowd chants in support]

The praise here goes to the stance adopted by Iran. praise should go to the great judgment of the eminent leader; to the government, that said that we will neither support America and its allies, nor Saddam and the Ba'thists, both of whose stances were correct. As for the Iraqi nation, it is imperative that we should assist them. How and by what means...[changes thought] in any case, you should know that Iran, praise be to God, was raised to a magnificent rank among all countries. It became honorable. The world has learned that in the Iran-Iraq war of yesterday, it was Iraq who was the aggressor, and Iran the innocent. The significance of Iran's integrity, uprightness, and honesty was proven to the other countries. Hence requests from all over the world for discussions of political and economic issues. May we become even more honorable. May God elevate our ranks even further. [crowd chants]

One point remains which concerns the people of Iraq: Men of the Iraqi nation, brothers: Are you going to sit there and let Saddam rule over you? Saddam's weakest day is today. That honorable gentlemen from the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq has put forward a good suggestion. He has said that Saddam should go, and the nation should choose a leader for itself. O Iraqi nation: His remarks are good. For God's sake take some action. You are human beings. Brace yourselves. Saddam will remain Saddam for you to the end, and will do more harm than he has done so far. [passage omitted]

Turkey's Ozal Phones Hashemi-Rafsanjani

NC0203051991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Turkish President Mr. Turgut Ozal contacted President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani by telephone last night to discuss the latest developments in the Persian Gulf crisis. IRNA reports that during the telephone conversation, the Turkish president informed Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Turkey's views on the future of the region and the significance of this.

For his part, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for regional countries to maintain regional security and expressed the hope that these countries can ensure the security and stability of this sensitive region through serious and sincere cooperation.

First Consignment of Food Sent to Iraq

LD0103113391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] The permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] at the United Nations Organization, in a letter to that organization's secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, informed him of the IRI's decision to dispatch the first consignment of foodstuffs to the people of Iraq. The IRI is adopting such measures following the announcement by the Security Council's boycott committee that it agrees to the IRI sending foodstuffs to the Iraqi people.

The first IRI consignment contains powdered milk, baby food, and other foodstuffs such as flour, rice, cooking oil, and fruit. In his letter to the secretary general, Mr. Kharrazi, Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations, reiterated that the consignment is going to be dispatched to Iraq with the coordination of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and will be distributed among the people of Iraq under the supervision of representatives of the Iranian Red Crescent.

Medical Aid Sent

LD0203112691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] A consignment of medicine, medical equipment, and powdered milk was dispatched to Iraq by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent Society [IRIRCS] in cooperation with the International Red Cross Committee (IRCC). It was dispatched via the Khosravi border at noon today. According to an IRNA report, the consignment, which was sent to Iraq in 15 trucks, will be placed at the disposal of Iraq's Red Crescent and health officials. It should be mentioned that since the beginning of the oil war in the Persian Gulf, 25 tonnes of medicine and medical equipment have been sent to Iraq by the

IRCC and the IRIRCS, and 50 tonnes of medicine have been sent to that country by UNICEF, via the Khosravi border.

'Mistakes' of Jordan's 'Muslim Brotherhood' Viewed

LD0303202291 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—In a commentary on Iran's principled position towards the recent American-led war against Iraq, the Persian daily KEYHAN said Sunday [3 March] that the Islamic Republic's neutral position was based on "ideological background."

It brushed aside any negative interpretation of Tehran's position in the war by certain detractors, saying:

"Iran's neutral policy stressed nonalignment with any of the parties to the war, but it did not mean indifference towards the victims of the war. Iran's open support for the Muslim people of Iraq and its support for the victims of that destructive war was open enough to catch the attention of political circles. Although there may still be a few people here and there who might voice doubt about Iran's neutral policy in the war, but the facts are too strong to leave room for suspicion."

The daily referring to the criticism voiced by Jordan's "Muslim Brotherhood" party concerning Iran's neutral policy, said such interpretations are mainly the result of their inability to comprehend facts about Iran's "wise policy" and about the essence of the war.

"The cadre of the Muslim Brotherhood would do well to criticize the U.S. domination over the Middle East and especially over the country in which they live before they choose to pass a judgment on Islamic Iran's policy of neutrality in the recent war. Needless to mention that in the midst of this the sincere members of the Muslim Brotherhood and its lower level members are not seen with the same eye as that of the upper cadre of the party which has long since adopted a policy of silence and compromise," admonished KEYHAN.

It noted that "the divisions thus far in that party and especially in Egypt by fervent and enthusiastic youths is clear indication of the path taken by the Islamic revolution."

The daily questioned the Muslim Brotherhood's credentials: "Is it that a people who did not practically do anything against Western arrogance in the region have now adopted revolutionary outlooks in their judgment of Iran's positions?"

Although the legitimacy and wisdom of Iran's policy was "proved in action", said KEYHAN "as long as the Muslim Brotherhood of Jordan has not done anything against the U.S. domination in the region and in Jordan and as long as it has not adopted a principled position, there will be suspicion about the outlooks adopted by its upper cadre."

The commentary advised the Muslim Brotherhood that "obviously the adoption of a principled position in that respect may serve to correct past mistakes and faults."

U.S. Accused of 'Misusing' UN Resolution

LD0303221491 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1650 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Commentary]

[Text] A total of 42 days of war in the Persian Gulf region left painful and sad images which pain any wary conscience. Turning a blind eye to human values, which occurred in the Persian Gulf war tragedy, depicted the savagery of the barbarian era recorded in history books with even more shamelessness in front of today's civilized human beings. The question of who is the instigator and culprit in this devastating war and of how far either of the sides implicated are involved in starting it is something that history will make clear. Undoubtedly, the ignominy of what occurred after the beginning of the war is forever laid on the United States and her allies since the United States, along with her allies, ignored all the efforts of recent decades to regulate the conventions of war—efforts made by international organizations to limit the extent of devastation and the slaughter of innocent human beings—and by trampling on the conventions banning attacks against civilians, residential, and nonmilitary areas; banning the killing of surrendering soldiers; and banning the need for rescuing the injured from battlegrounds, have committed crimes that are hard to imagine.

The United States which had the responsibility of leading the anti-Iraq front, to give legitimacy to her actions and also hiding the crimes in the war theatre, made use of two instruments: One was to open the way for the legal justification of the war by using the UN Security Council's resolutions at every step. Then, so that no restrictions from public opinion could impede what she had in mind, she fed public opinion with severely censored news of the battle scenes, which were contrary to the truth and as she desired. Certainly, what is in the Security Council's resolution for dealing with Saddam's aggression against Kuwait is quite different from what the allies, led by the United States, did against Iraq, and the U.S. actions were drastically beyond the framework of the Security Council resolutions since, from a legal point of view and according to the resolution, if Security Council considers any war necessary, that war must be under the leadership and control of the Security Council itself and not one of its members.

Adopting Security Council Resolution 678, which allows the use of military action against Iraq, only refers to pushing back the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, but the United States, by misusing this resolution, embarked on a general destruction of Iraq and tried to portray her actions in war as resulting from UN decisions and the wish of the international community. In this regard, the UN Secretary General, to exonerate the United Nations from the crimes committed in the war, announced that this war is not a United Nations war. Various states, referring to the U.S. transgression from the framework of the Security Council's resolutions, expressed their aversion. All this demonstrated well the illegitimacy of the U.S. actions.

On the other hand, with severe censorship in the regional war, which was unprecedented in the wars of recent decades, the U.S. and her allies were trying to hide their own savagery, whereas in wars, such as the Vietnam war, and in major Middle Eastern conflicts, such as the Suez Canal war in 1956, and the Arab-Israeli wars, and also the agression of the occupying regime of Jerusalem against southern Lebanon in 1982, military operations were reported at every moment, and the correspondents were even able to attend battle scenes and independently report the war news. In the Persian Gulf war, by creating restrictions for journalists in reporting war news, an unprecedented censorship was implemented. The allied anti-Iraq front thus tried to portray the war as a war in which they could reach their goal by using sophisticated and accurate implements, by preventing bloodshed and destruction, and by targeting only military bases and attacking the military, but the war and the reflection of the news of the devastation and slaughters revealed the painful images of war that had remained hidden.

Although the war has ended, its end has come at the cost of almost total devastation of Kuwait and the destruction of the main part of Iraq. Although U.S. military experts have declared Iraqi dead to number 60,000, a U.S. TV network announced that 150,000 Iraqi troops were killed by allied forces. If this is true, adding the civilian dead to the figure will make the extent of their crimes all the more clear.

All this, which well depicts the U.S. criminal face and offers a horrifying image of war, has caused regional public opinion to be strongly provoked against the instigators of this war and the revulsion and the loathing of the Muslims toward the United States to further increase. This war, therefore, is not a sign of victory for the United States, but merely a clear indication of the U.S. aggressive nature and will never be considered an honor for that country. Just as the eminent leader of the revolution, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, has graciously said: what the United States and her allies have committed against the Islamic ummah in recent weeks is worse than the actions of Genghis Khan and Hulegu [Khan's grandson], and Mr. Bush's real face, with his civilized appearance, if not uglier and darker than theirs, is not brighter and more beautiful either. He killed human beings, humiliated a nation, turned a country into a ruin, and now, idiotically, feels victorious.

Opposition Radio Reports Anti-Saddam Rally

TA0403084891 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0645 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] It has been reported that demonstrations have been staged opposite the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran against Saddam Husayn and his regime. In these demonstrations the people chanted slogans against Saddam Husayn. One of the slogans chanted by the demonstrators was: Death to the dictator.

Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif on Gulf, PRC Visit, U.S. Aid

BK0203143891 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said Pakistan wants to cooperate and assist in the postwar construction work in the Gulf. Speaking to newsmen in Lahore this afternoon, he said Pakistan's policy on the Gulf has proved sound and said the efforts of vested interests to misguide the people on this have failed and the people have foiled their obnoxious designs.

On his recent visit to China, the prime minister said it has further strengthened the friendship between the two countries, which has stood the test of time. Pakistan and China want to promote cooperation in various fields.

On the U.S. aid to Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan has neither made any appeal nor taken any steps to restore it. He said if the United States wants to provide assistance to Pakistan, there is no objection to accepting it, provided we do not have to make any compromise on our principles. The prime minister said that we have to take every decision in this regard with great caution and added that the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad government is determined not to compromise on its principles. He said we will remain alive with dignity and honor on an equitable basis.

Nawaz Sharif Congratulates King Fahd

BK0203163191 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, today congratulated Khadimul Haramain Sharifain [custodian of the two holy mosques in Saudi Arabia] King Fahd on his endeavors that led to the liberation of Kuwait. The prime minister telephoned the King of Saudi Arabia to convey his felicitation.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif is learnt to have also discussed with the king matters relating to the post-war development and the need for a speedy rehabilitation and reconstruction of Kuwait.

Fahd Thanks Pakistani People

BK0303063091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in a message about the cease-fire following the liberation of Kuwait, thanked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the people of Pakistan. King Fahd said restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government is a victory for Islamic principles which gives a guarantee of peace and security. These principles also prohibit all wrong actions and aggression.

'Arab Country' Accused of Planning Interference

BK0403052091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Rashid Ahmad, information and broadcasting adviser to the prime minister, has said the government has solid evidence that an embassy belonging to an Arab country has been busy over the past two years carrying out a plan to create chaos in the country. Talking to reporters in Islamabad yesterday, he said the government will disclose the evidence at a suitable time.

The aim of the plan now is to use some elements to pressure the Pakistani Government to withdraw its troops from Saudi Arabia. Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said the situation and incidents have proved that the government's policy on the Gulf was correct. He described the prime minister's peace mission as highly successful and said it will bring positive results with the passage of time.

Commentary Says Arabs 'Have To Help Themselves'

BK0103160591 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Feb 91

[A.B.S. Jaffery commentary: "Cease-fire in the Gulf"]

[Text] The whole world is heaving a sigh of relief at the cessation of hostilities in the Gulf war. As the firing and fighting has ended, it would be wishful to believe that peace has arrived or rather it is around the corner. It is not. Nor is it being unduly pessimistic to suggest that genuine peace is still so far away as to be not yet in sight. As a matter of fact, it is hard to recall ungenuine peace with the fact of life in the Middle East. That part of the world has been living from crisis to crisis for many decades.

The Gulf war, in which we have a cease-fire as of this morning, is only an extension of the tensions which are endemic in the Middle East. The rapid discovery of gigantic reserves of oil has brought delicate tensions with it, while it is not worth it. Some of the factors which imperil peace in the Middle East stem from the wealth of the oil rich states. In a message announcing cessation of hostilities, the U.S. president, George Bush, referred to his awareness of the reconstruction that would be needed to bring in peace and to ensure that it endures. That he was not putting across a [words indistinct] formula of what he has lately been talking about as a new world order is quite understandable. It is too soon to be absolutely sure and certain of what the post-war picture turns out to be like. Even so, the U.S. president, who led the massive western coalition in the Gulf war, dropped hints clear enough to suggest [words indistinct] more equitable sharing of this (?added) wealth among the Arabs as the basis of a more just and durable peace in the Middle East.

There is no denying the fact that there exists an unacceptable gulf between the poorest of Arabs and the richest of them. And this awful inequality gives birth to a terrible array of problems with limitless potential for impairment in the general political economic climate in the Arab Middle East. This problem definitely needs to be addressed with all the courage and vision that can be mustered not only inside the Middle East but also among the major powers, who after all, influence the world affairs and manage.

Several ideas would be starting from several directions as days pass. Of course, it is not going to be easy to fashion a new economic system for a region (?riddled) with an exasperating disarray of age-old prejudices, not to speak of incandescent rivalries and simmering grievances. And it is not always easy to persuade the rich to part with their riches purely from an altruistic sentiment, however enlightened the parties concerned might be. So long as economic justice is not seen as a dire political need, it would not have many instant and devoted takers. If nothing else, past experience at least demonstrates as much.

While there is absolutely no denying the fact that extremes of wealth and poverty within the Arab family of countries have been generating unwholesome ripples and waves, even sub-surface convulsions, the problems in the Middle East are essentially political. In the last analysis, all problems among nations boil down to politics and solutions to all problems are to be found in political remedies. The Middle East is a classic case, where political malaise appears to be economic maldistribution, and economic problems give the impression of being offshoots of political incompatibilities. It is not unlikely that the Western powers led as they usually are by thinking in Washington may turn to place a disproportionately high priority on redressing economic disequalities at the cost of the political problems that have plagued the Middle East for at least half a century. It would not be a realistic and practicable approach to put the political problems in the back burner in the optimistic hope that if all the Arabs can be made to be economically comfortable, they would be persuaded to forget about their political deprivations and military humiliations. The political reverses, which the Arab people right across the Arab world have had to endure, have left the Arab psyche in a hypersensitive state. No solution however philosophically high minded has a credible chance of working if it does not restore to the Arab people their repeatedly injured self-esteem and self-confidence.

Out of evil, sometimes comes good. Let us hope that the stupendous destruction and shattering loss of life resulting from the Gulf war will not go in vain. Let us hope that at such painfully long last the Arab leadership will turn the corner and take their destiny in their own hands backed by true unity and fraternity in their ranks. In the final analysis, it is the Arabs who have to help themselves.

Reportage on Nawaz Sharif Visit to PRC

WA0103125891

For coverage of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to the PRC, including his meetings with Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun, as well as his comments on the Gulf situation, please see the Near East & South Asia section of the 25 February China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Sri Lanka

Minister Ranjan Wijeratne Killed in Bombing

BK0203045891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0453 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Colombo, March 2 (AFP)—State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne was killed in a bomb attack here in the Sri Lankan capital, a military official confirmed.

"We have not been able to account for him after his motorcade was hit. His relatives are now being consoled," the official said. Witnesses said they saw three charred bodies in the minister's car.

News Release Urges Calm

BK0203084891 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0726 GMT 2 Mar 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 2 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne was killed in a bomb explosion this morning.

Mr. Wijeratne was on his way to office from his residence when the incident took place about 8.30 A.M. at the Police Park Junction on Havelock Road in Bambalapitiaya, Colombo 5.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa has personally directed Inspector General of Police Ernest Perera to personally direct investigations with a view to identifying those responsible for the dastardly act.

A news release issued by the presidential secretariat states, "Hon. Ranjan Wijeratne, member of parliament, minister of plantation industries and minister of state for defence was killed in a bomb explosion this morning. He was on his way to office from his residence when this incident took place at about 8.30 A.M. at the Police Park Junction on Havelock Road.

His excellency the president has directed the inspector general of police to personally direct investigations with a view to identifying those responsible for this dastardly act.

His excellency the president appeals to all the people to remain calm in this tragic hour and thus assist in the smooth conduct of investigations.

The police have been instructed to deal firmly with any mischievous elements who may attempt to exploit this situation. The president has directed that a state funeral be accorded to the Late Hon. Ranjan Wijeratne. The president visited the scene of the bomb explosion and later called on Mrs Wijeratne and the members of the bereaved family."

LTTE Denies Killing

BK0403125691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Colombo, March 4 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas Monday denied killing State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne, but said his death would be a "relief" to minority Tamils.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in a statement from its London office, said it had nothing to do with the car bomb attack which killed the minister and 18 others here Saturday.

But it added: "The LTTE acknowledges that he symbolised the Sri Lankan racist and oppressive system and was instrumental in the muder of thousands of innocent Tamils."

"His demise will bring a sense of relief for the Tamil people," London-based LTTE official Sathasivam Krishnakumar said by telephone.

He said the denial had been relayed to London from the LTTE leadership in Sri Lanka's northern province.

Sri Lankan authorities had suspected that the LTTE was behind the attack, which resembled several bomb attacks in Colombo in 1986 and 1987.

PLOTE Condemns Bombing

BK0203124691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1041 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Colombo, March 2 (AFP)—A Tamil political party here condemned Saturday's assassination of Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne, saying he was a politician who had worked for ethnic unity in Sri Lanka.

"He was an honest and straight-forward man who truly worked for the unity among different communities. He was not a racist," the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) said.

PLOTE, an arch rival of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, has been siding with the government in its drive against the LTTE.

Military officials have strongly hinted the involvement of the LTTE in Saturday's attack, but there has been no immediate word from the Tigers.

Tamil sources here said they believed that the LTTE carried out the blast using explosives allegedly ferried to Colombo on air force helicopters from northern Sri Lanka during 14 months of secret talks with the government.

Those talks ended in failure with the LTTE resuming its guerrilla campaign for a seperate state in the island's northeast in June.

The leftist Nava Sama Samaja (New Equal Society) Party (NSSP) said they suspected the LTTE blew up the minister in retaliation for aerial bombardments carried out by the air force in Tamil areas.

However, the NSSP said the LTTE backlash was a result of what it called repressive policies and actions of the United National Party (UNP) government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

President's Reaction

BK0303095391 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0819 GMT 3 Mar 91

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, 3 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—If those responsible for the killing of Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne thought they could by this act stop the struggle he fought to preserve the territorial integrity, sovereignty and unitary status of this country, they are wrong. They are sadly mistaken. The fight would continue. This was stated by President Ranasinghe Premadasa at the dedication of the Wariyapola Sri Sumangala Vidyalaya [school], Asgiriya, to the students yesterday.

President Premadasa said Minister Wijeratne sacrificed his life for the benefit of the Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and Burghers. He had no malice against any section or community of this country but wherever he saw injustice he stood against injustice. Mr. Wijeratne's name would be written in golden letters in the annals of our country as one who sacrificed his life by trying to protect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and unitary status of this country. His name would be added to the list of national heroes for giving his life to save the country and its people from fear and terror.

One thing he learnt about the qualities of Mr. Wijeratne during the presidential election campaign which was conducted under threats and fear from terrorists was that he acted without fear. Mr Wijeratne did this not to gain any personal gain or glory. It was a quality of Mr. Wijeratne. That was one of the reasons why he [Premadasa] entrusted the portfolio of state minister of Defense to Mr. Wijeratne.

The president said he had visited the scene of the incident where Mr. Wijeratne was killed yesterday. From the damages caused to the houses and buildings, Mr. Premadasa said he could judge the power of the bomb that had been planted in the vehicle. It had been a precision-timed act done to break the national unity that was in the process of being built among all communities and religions in this country in order to create chaos and help looters to cash in. He warned the people not to be misled by rumors as there were sections of people who may try to create chaos.

He said it was sad that on March 2, the day on which the Kandyan convention was signed in Kandy where Ven Wariyapola Sri Sumangala pulled down the Union Jack and hoisted the Lion Flag that this tragedy had occurred. It was also the day on which the death of that great Sinhala scholar, Munidasa Cumaratunga, had taken place. [passage omitted].

President's Message Congratulates Kuwaiti Amir

BK0203123691 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa has sent a message to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, extending his warmest congratulations on the occasion of the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of the sovereignty of that country. He says he welcomes the return of the legitimate government of Kuwait following the suspension of offensive military operations. He earnestly hoped that the early implementation of the relevant Security Council resolution will bring about a permanent cease-fire. The president said he has no doubt that the government and the people of Kuwait will succeed in the major effort of reconstruction required to restore the stability of the economy of the state of Kuwait. Your highness is aware that relations between the state of Kuwait and Sri Lanka have been traditionally close and cordial. Over 100,000 Sri Lankans had the privilege of being employed in Kuwait. The president adds that he is confident that relations between the two countries will be further strengthened in the months ahead.